

HOME & DECOR

SINGAPORE

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– the latest
home decor
statements

BKK BIG Fair
Stylish Thai
designs we
want to own

Yes, your
HDB flat can
pay for your
retirement
page 146

design a
small space

Surprise – none of the old rules apply

JUL 2015





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My bread maker.

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9 Heartland Stores

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| • Jurong Point (JP) | Tel: 6795 2135 | | |

Muah Chee!

Try my recipe for cooking the perfect Muah Chee using a Bread Maker!



PREP 10 MINS / COOK 2 HRS / SERVES 6

Ingredients

- 250 g glutinous rice flour
- 375 ml water
- 1 tbsp shallot oil
- 60 g fine sugar
- 150 g ground peanut
- Some roasted sesame seeds, blended

4 Easy Steps

1. Mix together glutinous rice flour, water and shallot oil, and place in bread pan.
2. With 10 mins left, stir dough with wooden chopstick.
3. When about to serve, mix together sugar, ground peanut and blended sesame seeds.
4. Once dough is ready, cut into bite-sized pieces and coat with peanut mixture.

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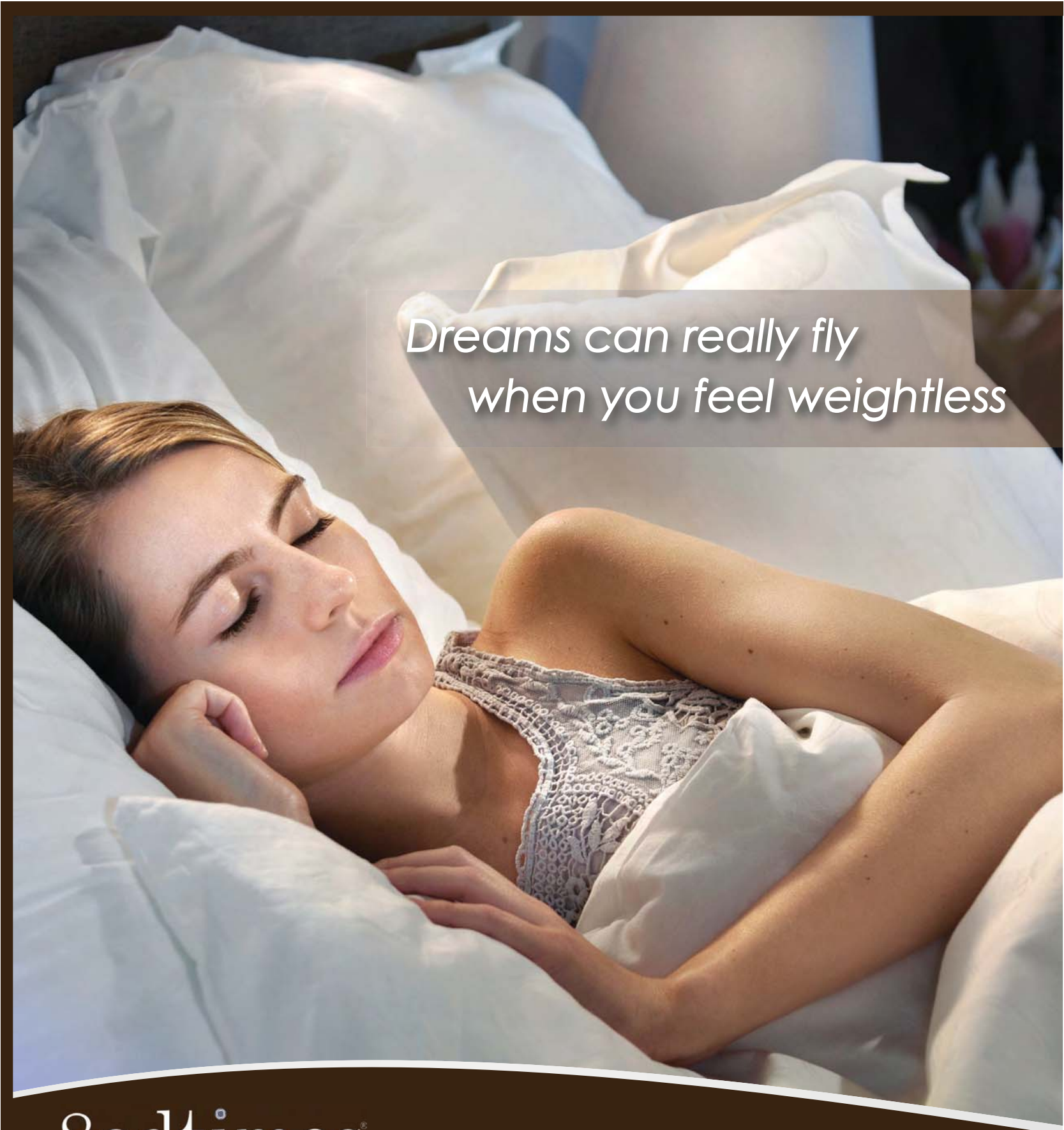
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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

West Atrium

15 May - 15 June: Lotus Bedding

16 June - 30 June: The V Furniture

01 July - 15 July : Fabrio Furnishing

16 July - 31 July : Scanteak

East Atrium

19 May - 02 June: XTRA

03 June - 30 June: 8edtimes

01 July - 31 July : ModusNatura

PARK MALL'S EXCLUSIVE LUCKY DRAW

Stand a chance to win over S\$40,000 worth of home furniture and an additional chance to participate in the SPH Shop and Win 2015 Grand Lucky Draw with a minimum spending of S\$500* at Park Mall.

1st Prize : GERVASONI Gray 33, Full Dining Set from XTRA worth S\$21,000

**2nd Prize : Sealy Posturepedic Palatial Crest UniCased XT
Imperial Opulence Mattress from Sealy worth S\$18,000**

3rd Prize : Home Furniture Set from Eco Links worth S\$10,000

PARK MALL'S BONUS LUCKY DIP

Get instant rewards at our Bonus Lucky Dip plus 1 hour FREE parking when you spend S\$300* at Park Mall. Redemption at Customer Service Counter from 11am to 9pm daily.



Cellini Design Centre



Whitewoods Living



Elemento by Voschs



8detimes



Sealy Asia (Singapore)



Lotus Bedding



XTRA



Scanteak



OVAS

Check out the exciting offers from these participating stores:

- 8detimes • Bedtimes • Cellini Design Centre • Eileen Concept Store • Elemento by Voschs • Grafunkt
- Intellihub Pte Ltd • Kublai Khan Mongolian BBQ Restaurant • Leather Gallery • Lotus Bedding
- Luxury Mattress Collection • Omazz Bedding • OVAS • Scanteak • Sealy Asia (Singapore)
- The Automated Lifestyle Pte Ltd • The Bear Knows • The V Furniture • Whitewoods Living • XTRA

*Terms and conditions apply: Park Mall's Exclusive Lucky Draw and Park Mall's Bonus Lucky Dip entries are valid till 26 July 2015, while stocks last. Visit www.parkmall.com.sg or our Customer Service Counter for more details.



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NOW

The Latest in Design and Decor News



36

HOT SEAT - 214P CHAIR

You've probably seen this chair in dozens of cafes, but did you know it was designed in the 1850s?

38

ART - STUDIO VISIT: ROBERT ZHAO RENHUI

This local contemporary artist is inspired by animal memorabilia, preserved insects and natural history journals.



CHECK
OUT

CHECK OUT - ADRIFT

Wilson Associates created criss-crossing wood and copper panels for the facade of Californian chef David Myers' new restaurant.

42

HIT LIST

These latest farmhouse-chic pieces add rusticity, charm and texture to your space.

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PEOPLE - DAVID WAHL

Ikea designer and judge of Ikea Singapore's Young Designer Award 2015.

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PEOPLE - MELISSA SUNJAYA

Artist and founder of Tulisan.



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PEOPLE - GREG SHAND

Architect of the new Indian Heritage Centre.

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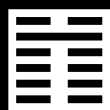
NEW SHOP - DANOVEL

Soft furnishings, window treatments and furniture.

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INSPIRATION

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WILD AT HEART

Who let the animals out?
We imagine a world where
beautiful wild creatures come
out to play – in our homes!

FEATURE

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ON THE DESIGN MAP

Thailand is already known for its
traditional craftsmanship, but its
design scene is evolving to keep
up with international trends.

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**GLOBAL DESIGN
AT LARGE**

Designers from all over the
globe descended upon Milan's
central districts during the city's
design week to show off their
work. Here are the brands and
designers that stood out.

92

**7 SMALL SPACE
DESIGN RULES –
DEBUNKED!**

Forget all your preconceived
notions about designing a small
space – we tell you why breaking
the rules can work, too!



COVER




photography DARREN CHANG art direction DON TAN & KAFFY TAN

TOTO



NEOREST

The latest Neorest with Actilight boasts the world's first self-cleansing system that eradicates even microscopic waste particles. Its human-centric design and automated features define the Neorest series as a luxurious and intuitive experience like no other.

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HOMES



100

INSPIRED BY NATURE

This contemporary, eco-friendly home is designed to be family-friendly.



108

WARM WELCOME

Thanks to its warm colour scheme, this industrial-style home remains cosy despite the concrete surfaces and stripped-down interiors.



114

FAMILIAR COMFORTS

A peppy mix of different elements brings not only energy, but also a sense of homely comfort, to this apartment's fluid spaces.



124

ALL BOXED UP

Striking design features, such as crate-like cabinets and an unfinished brick wall, give this home a unique edge.



130

THE MORE THE MERRIER

Five tile and three laminate designs make up the exciting smorgasbord of pattern and colour in the kitchen of this flat!



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REGULARS

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DIGITAL EDITION
EXCLUSIVE

GET THE LOOK

Go against the grain for maximum style in a mini space. Do so with these materials, furniture and fittings!

10 FUN FEATURES
FOR A CHILD'S
ROOM

Bring a cheery atmosphere into your child's room with these fun details!

PROPERTY

Besides the Lease Buyback Scheme, retirees hoping to unlock their HDB flat's value can also check out three other options.

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**louis
poulsen**





take a risk

To bring you this month's issue, our intrepid team stared down a lioness, an African lynx and other wild creatures in our photo studio. I'm not jesting, these animals were really present for the shoot – albeit their stuffed versions. On our cover and in *Wild At Heart* on page 64, we imagined what would happen if we let animals rampage through a beautiful home. A big “thank you” has to go to taxidermist Ken Mar, whose skilful preservation of these creatures makes them look almost alive, inducing goosebumps on anyone who saw them.

Our writers also took risks this month – one braved the traffic jams of Bangkok, and the other, the crowds thronging the streets of Milan during Milan Design Week – to file their reports. On *The Design Map* on page 74 discovers a wealth of products by Thai designers we wish would make their way

here soon, while *Global Design At Large* on page 80 looks at the showcases located outside the Salone del Mobile, collectively called *Fuorisalone*. “Experience” the extraordinary spaces and products with the many videos in our digital edition.

We also encourage you to veer off the tried-and-tested path when it comes to designing a small space. Yes, you *can* use dark colours, oversized lamps and patterned walls in a diminutive domain – just follow our guidelines in *7 Small Space Design Rules – Debunked!* on page 92.

Do something different this month, and try out our digital edition. In this issue, you'll be delighted with exclusive behind-the-scenes footage of our cover shoot, bonus content of fun features for your children's room, and lots more. There's actually nothing to risk, and everything to gain!

REBECKKA WONG
EDITOR

Rebeckka



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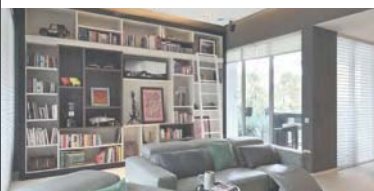
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CHECK OUT OUR TOP THREE BLOG POSTS OF THE MONTH



HOUSE TOUR: CHIC TRICKS FOR A SMALL SPACE

This one-bedroom condominium unit is packed with useful ideas for designing a small space. Hint: make it look as uncluttered as possible!

www.tinyurl.com/smallchictricks



10 WAYS TO MAKE SMALL BATHROOMS STAND OUT

You don't have to remodel your bathroom to create a beautiful space. Just follow these easy decoration tips.

www.tinyurl.com/10waysbathroom

LAUNDRY HACKS FOR THE BUSY SINGAPOREAN

Complete this tiresome chore quickly with these tips!

www.tinyurl.com/singaporelaundryhacks



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In the July digital issue...



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Go behind the scenes and see how we put our cover story together!



EXCLUSIVE VIDEOS

Get close to the sights and sounds of Milan Design Week with these videos.



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Inject these fun and creative designs into your child's room.



BONUS ARTICLE

We show you unexpected furnishings you can use in your small space.

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OUT & ABOUT

A look at our favourite snaps from *Home & Decor's* Instagram account this month.
Follow us at Homeanddecor_sg to see what caught our eye,
what inspires us, and what we're up to!



Robotic cranes at this Ikea Distribution Centre pick products off storage shelves, which are then shipped all over Europe.



ALMHULT, SWEDEN



On a recent media trip to Sweden, we dined at this quaint restaurant by a beautiful lake. It's as pretty as a picture!



ALMHULT, SWEDEN



The style of the garden-inspired corner in Adrift restaurant is influenced by the green wall outside.



MARINA BAY SANDS HOTEL



The Kelly cafe at Central Plaza Lardprao has a pretty French-inspired, shabby-chic look.



BANGKOK, THAILAND



Milan's design districts were abuzz with celebrations to mark the end of the design week.



ZONA TORTONA, MILAN



We love the simple and stylish interior of Plain Vanilla Bakery, achieved by the use of concrete screed and wood.



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New Squeeze

As if Alessi's Juicy Salif citrus squeezer wasn't cool enough already – two special editions were released during Milan Design Week, in celebration of the iconic design's 25th anniversary. The first is made of cast aluminium and finished with a white ceramic coating, and the second – a cast bronze version (pictured) – is limited to only 299 numbered pieces.

The Juicy Salif and its special editions are available at Macsk, #01-14, 63 Mohamed Sultan Road, tel: 6443-2282.





214P Chair

Why We Love It

You've probably seen this chair in dozens of cafes, but did you know it was designed in the 1850s? Originally known as the bistro chair, or the No. 14 chair, it was created to meet the need for more cafe-style dining chairs and is one of the earliest furniture designs to utilise steam-bending technology. It is also easy to assemble, making it one of the first few designs to be manufactured in bulk, and it is still considered a pioneer of mass-produced furniture today.

Who Designed It

Michael Thonet started as a carpenter's apprentice in France before becoming a cabinetmaker in 1819. He started experimenting with furniture-making two decades later, which led to the development of a bentwood method in which he used steam-bent wood to create graceful furniture pieces. His designs – chairs in particular – caught the attention of the Austrian imperial family and sowed the seeds of his furniture enterprise.

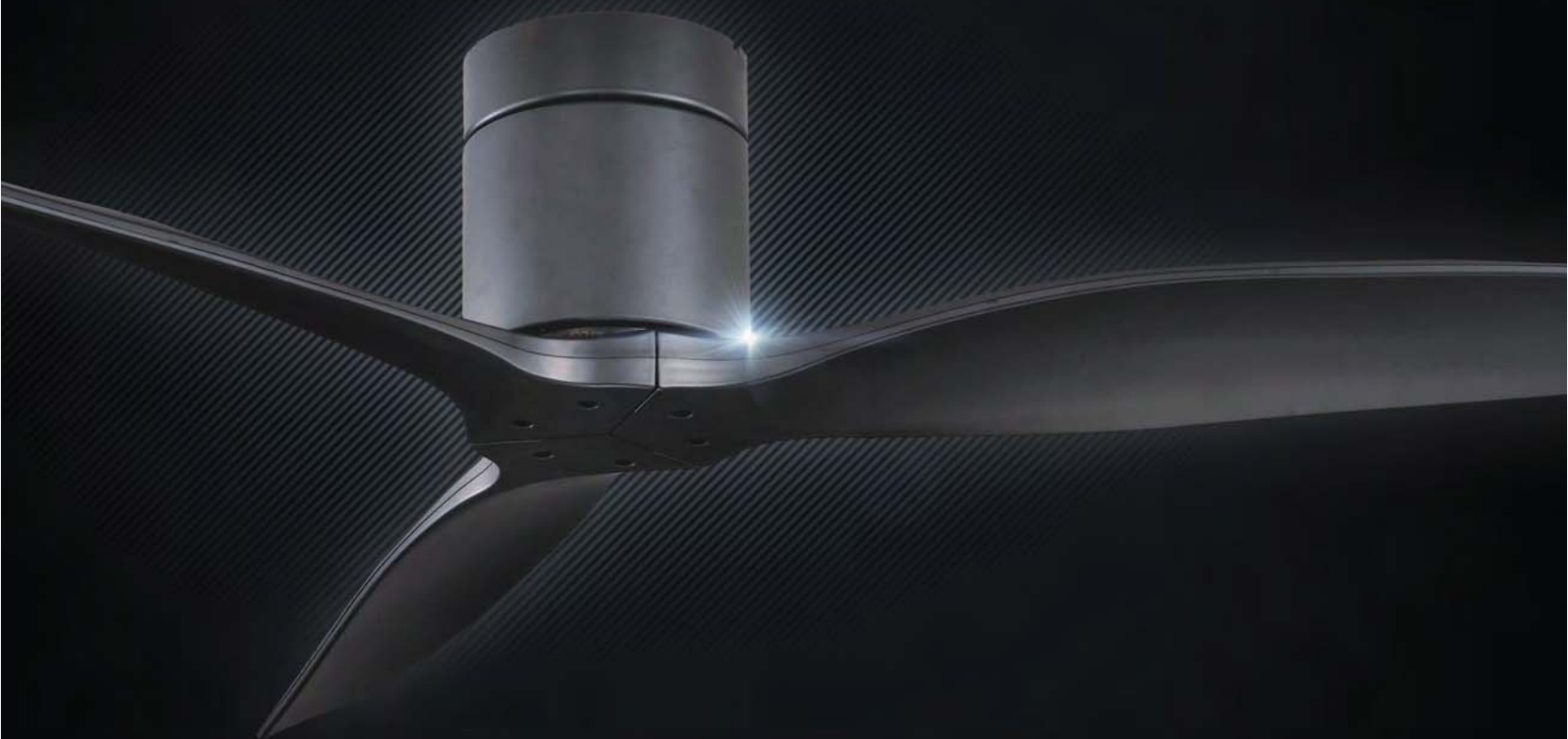
What It Inspired

The 214P is one of many offshoots of the original No. 14 chair. This edition comes with a cushioned seat, while its predecessor sported woven cane or palm seats that had gaps to allow split liquid to drain off quickly. Modern variations include pieces with straight or tapered legs, or with moulded plywood seats that come bare or covered with leather or fabric. ●



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1

ART

STUDIO
VISIT:
ROBERT
ZHAO
RENHUI

THIS LOCAL
CONTEMPORARY
ARTIST IS
INSPIRED
BY ANIMAL
MEMORABILIA,
PRESERVED
INSECTS AND
NATURAL
HISTORY
JOURNALS



2



3



4



5



1 The meeting area next to Robert's library is the perfect reading nook.

2 Looking out of the studio's windows on the right, he sometimes spots otters milling about the nearby canal.

3 Working with found dead insects is a recent fascination of the artist.

4 Part of Robert's collection of curiosities include animal specimens, traps and artefacts.

5 A cross between a zoo, lab and museum, this studio has various built-in and movable storage solutions that tailor this space to the nature of the artist's works.

6 Robert Zhao's Blind Long-tailed Owl, Desert Variant Of Little Owl from the 2011 series, As Walked On Water.

7 Outside the studio, a door with a "window" view over the original door greets visitors.

Things are never quite as they seem when it comes to the works of Robert Zhao. Visitors to his Goodman Arts Centre studio can immediately get a sense of his refusal to accept things at face value – just by standing at the entrance. Layered over his original yellow studio door is another black door with a window view – a feature that aptly sets the tone for the curiosities that lie beyond.

Robert holds a Master of Arts in Photography from the London College of Communication, and his work revolves around our relationship with nature. The better-known works of the 2010 National Arts Council's Young Artist Award winner depict animals in altered circumstances, such as the Blind Long-tailed Owl, Desert Variant Of Little Owl (2011), which features a digitally altered owl with plumage that covers its eyes. The accompanying narrative states that this owl has evolved to deal with new desert conditions due to deforestation, a concept that urges viewers to think about the consequences of our exploitation of the environment.

THE STUDIO AS AN EXTENDED BRAIN

Robert likens his studio to a brain in which ideas compete and collaborate. And in his "brain", he has surrounded himself with animal memorabilia and references that "may serve as starting points of an idea", says the 36-year-old, "so it's important to have them with me." These references include project brochures, preserved scorpions that sit alongside mousetraps on the tables, and publications such as natural history journals which line the bookshelves.

To store his growing collection of materials, Robert built space-efficient features such as a raised platform that also hides bulky objects within. "I design my exhibitions with consideration to the artwork's afterlife," says the artist, who keeps his works to small, manageable sizes for easier storage.

As he is fond of nature, he has positioned his computer near the windows so that he can enjoy the view

outside while working: "I regularly spot a family of otters emerging to find food around the canal outside."

IMAGES, OBJECTS AND STORIES

Robert has gone as far as the North Pole to capture natural scenes, but shoots often in the studio as it gives him more control – the main reason why he rarely works with live animals. Propped before his Canon EOS 5D or large-format Linhof film camera are usually mounted animals or animal carcasses that were found or donated.

For his past documentary photographs, he would crank up the visual contrast to heighten the emotional impact of the print. But he now uses paler colours, blurring the line between scientific records and old travel photos.

His current "pseudo scientific" approach artfully combines photography, science and poignant storytelling, and usually begins with a question. "I've always wondered why goldfish were never included in natural history encyclopaedias," shared the artist.

That sparked an investigation into man-made nature, and led to the 2013 project, A Guide To The Flora And Fauna Of The World, which features 55 plants and animals that have been widely accepted as "natural", but are in fact man-made. These include genetically modified corn, goldfish, and fictitious examples such as the "White House Crow" of Singapore.

According to its imagined backstory, the crow became white to camouflage itself against Singapore's reclaimed land areas. This idea mirrors the real-life emergence of Britain's peppered moths, which were originally light-coloured but developed dark spots during the Industrial Revolution to blend in with the polluted surroundings.

As the artist puts it: "The best stories are grounded in reality." ●



ROBERT'S UPCOMING SOLO EXHIBITION, THE TREE THAT FELL, WILL BE HELD AT THE SUBSTATION FROM AUG 24 TO SEPT 26. CHECK OUT HIS PAST WORKS AT WWW.CRITICALZOOLOGISTS.ORG.





LEFT
Adrift's peekaboo facade lures curious visitors closer.

BOTTOM, LEFT
This informal living room-like setting next to the bar has a retro slant to it.

BELOW
The main seating area is designed for big groups, to complement the menu's many small plate dishes, like the beef tataré (pictured), which are great for sharing.

BOTTOM, MIDDLE
Adrift's bespoke-style bar serves a range of cocktails designed by famed bar consultant Sam Ross from New York.

CHECK OUT

ADRIFT

Adrift is Californian chef David Myers' first venture into Singapore and, here, the Gypsy Chef (as he is nicknamed for the multicultural ingredients he uses in his food) tantalises guests with creative dishes such as beef tataré with chilli, and foie gras banh mi.

For the 4,000sqf restaurant, interior architecture firm Wilson Associates created an eclectic concept. It's enclosed in a facade made up of criss-crossing wood and copper panels, and the sense of mystery is carried through to the dimly lit cocktail bar by the main entrance, a nod to Prohibition-era bars. Guests can feel at home at the living room-like area next to the bar, which is furnished with Mid-Century Modern sideboards and vintage-inspired seating.



Things brighten up beyond the bar, where the main dining area is located. The floor-to-ceiling windows allow natural light to flood in, while a row of playful swing benches accentuates the lush vertical garden. When the sun sets, the entire space transforms into a cosy setting thanks to the warm wooden tones accented with industrial metal elements.

Many of David's culinary creations contain an element of surprise, and the designers at Wilson Associates expressed this with a private dining room that has a camouflaged entrance. The richly decorated space feels like the personal library of a well-heeled globetrotter, accessorised with a large oriental carpet, travel photographs in vintage-style frames, and "instant" bookshelves courtesy of some clever wallpaper – a lovely private space to impress your guests! ●

●
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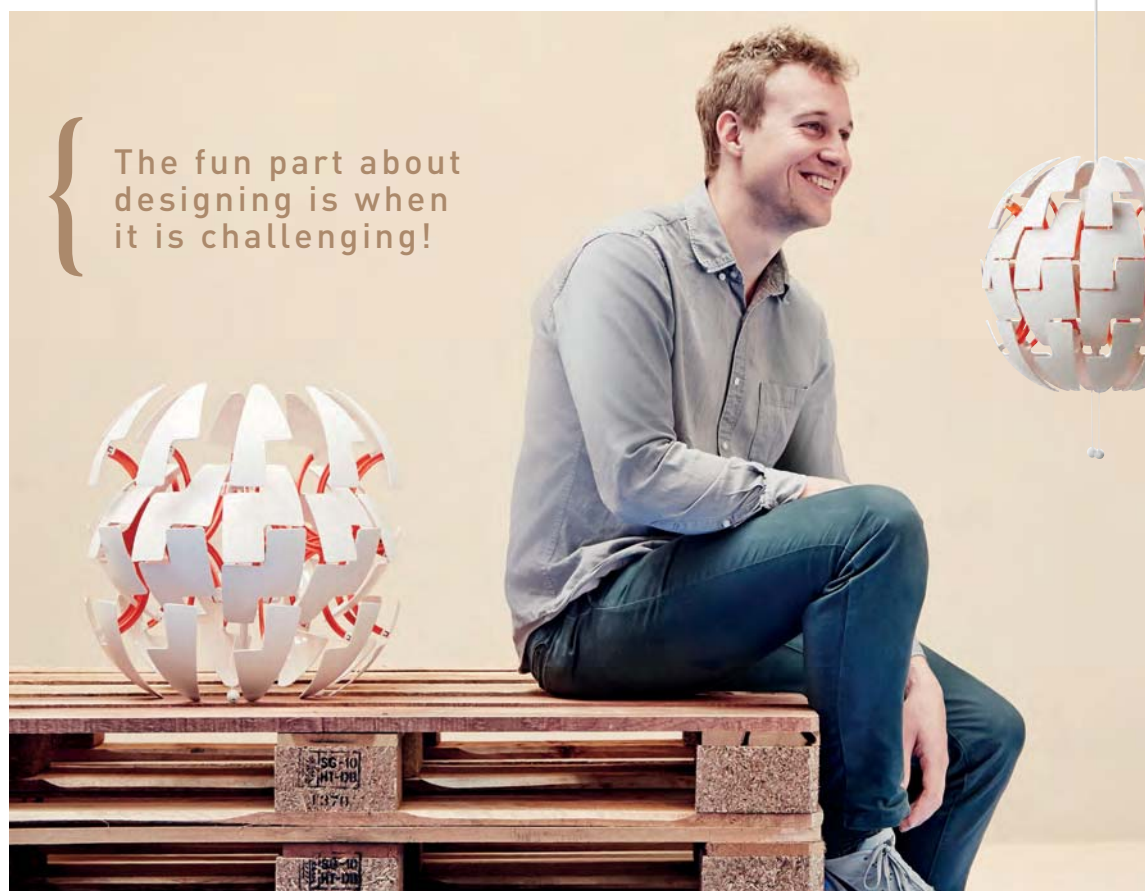


See other products David Wahl has designed for Ikea, only on our digital edition. Turn to page 18 for how to download.



DAVID WAHL

IKEA DESIGNER
AND JUDGE OF
IKEA SINGAPORE'S
YOUNG DESIGNER
AWARD 2015



It was not too long ago that Shanghai-based Swedish designer David Wahl was an intern at Ikea, and now, with a successful career in the Swedish company, he's in town to judge the Ikea Singapore's Young Designer Award 2015. One of the 29-year-old's most notable Ikea designs is the PS 2014 pendant lamp.

How did you start working with Ikea?

I was one of three students given a six-month internship at Ikea of Sweden when I graduated in 2008. After that, I moved back to Stockholm and worked at another company as an industrial designer for two years, before going back to Ikea as a full-time designer.

What do you take into consideration when designing Ikea's products?

The company's philosophy of "Democratic Design". The five aspects are form – it has to be beautiful; function – to make everyday life easier and more meaningful; quality – for things to last longer and age gracefully; sustainability – to have a beneficial impact on people and the planet; and a low price. Everything is designed with these aspects in mind.

Of all the Ikea products you've designed, which is your favourite?

That would be the PS 2014 pendant lamp. It has the most fun and unexpected design, with an element of surprise. Even though it looks complicated, it requires only simple and basic assembly. Quite a bit of thought went into it, but that's the fun part – like solving a puzzle.

What inspires you?

Different fields of work, not just design. I'll go out and see how people solve problems. For example, how musical instruments and sports equipment are designed, or the many interesting solutions in architecture.

What do you think of the designs submitted by the students?

I think they're really nice! Every design has some really good points that relate to "Democratic Design". While some are really strong in form, others are stronger in function, so there's a mix. The overall level is very high! ●

ABOVE David Wahl with the Ikea PS 2014 pendant lamp (\$79), which he designed. Its light can be manually dimmed by pulling a string, which also changes its shape.



SEE MORE OF DAVID WAHL'S DESIGNS AT IKEA.



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PEOPLE

MELISSA SUNJAYA

ARTIST AND FOUNDER OF TULISAN

Growing up in Jakarta, Melissa Sunjaya's father used to teach her how to use an ordinary felt tip pen to create calligraphy strokes. She also remembered watching in awe as her grandmother handcrafted pillows and quilt covers.

Melissa's sense of curiosity and imagination never left her, and after an illustrious career in design and branding, she established Tulisan ("handwriting" in Bahasa Indonesia) in 2010. It was born out of her experimentation with artisanal craft methods such as silk-screened batik, and has since grown into a brand with an arsenal of products such as home and fashion accessories, and stationery.

Melissa's illustrations, as well as collaborative art created with her artist and designer friends, are manually silk-screened onto canvas pieces, and then handmade into items such as cushion covers, aprons, tea towels and bags.

ABOVE
Melissa applies her artworks to lifestyle products so that people can enjoy art in close proximity.

BELOW
Find a whole range of products – think cushion covers and bags – made with the same printed designs.



RIGHT
Decorate your table with vivid prints, such as the floral motifs on the Red Sangria luncheon napkins.

BOTTOM, RIGHT
The illustrations on some items, such as this tea towel from the *Love Letters of Roro Mendut* range, are inspired by Indonesian folk tales.

"The joy of my work as an artist lies in exploring the art of storytelling through different mediums," says the 41-year-old entrepreneur, whose giclee prints are exceptionally rich in narrative. "I keep a notebook with me at all times, and will scribble details of the people I encounter – like the way they strut or lift their chin – which would add flair to the story."

All of the pieces are produced in small batches, some of which are made at the brand's atelier within the Kampus Diakonia Modern, a non-profit safe house in Jakarta for street children. "I believe that every human being deserves the right to have dreams and a sense of security," Melissa explains of her passion for creating entrepreneurship opportunities for the less fortunate. ●



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Explore the new Indian Heritage Centre, only on the digital edition. Turn to page 18 for how to download.



PEOPLE

GREG SHAND

ARCHITECT OF
THE NEW INDIAN
HERITAGE CENTRE

Greg Shand admits that it was a tall order to design something that represents the entire Indian civilisation. "That's why a contemporary building is best," the founder of Robert Greg Shand Architects explains of the National Heritage Board's (NHB's) brief for the new Indian Heritage Centre located in Little India.

So instead of using ethnic aesthetics that risk ostracising any groups within the diverse Indian community, Greg took elements of the *baoli* (Indian stepwell) and *jali* (perforated screens), and gave them a contemporary touch to form the geometric patterns on the building's glass facade. This motif is also echoed by the series of staircases behind the glass. "By casting visitors on the facade, it makes the building look less static," Greg adds. "The facade's glazing also reflects the streets in the day, enabling the building to blend into the area."

One of the biggest challenges was to maximise the use of the tight, triangular site, so multifunctionality was a must. The stairway by the entrance, for example, can double as a venue for talks as it has atrium-like seating on one side. And as the museum galleries inside this four-storey building aren't expansive, dark surfaces and dim lighting were used to give more depth.

Energy efficiency was also key for this centre, and Greg achieved a Greenmark



ABOVE

By taking the stairs, visitors are rewarded with a panoramic view of the colourful Little India district.

TOP LEFT

Architect Greg Shand keeps his company small so that he's able to oversee all the details in every project.

BELOW

The Indian Heritage Centre reflects the streets on its facade in the day, but stands out at night when it's lit up.

Gold Plus rating for it, which is the highest among local museums and galleries so far. This was achieved thanks to the non-air-conditioned staircase area behind the facade, ventilated by a system that extracts air from the top to create airflow from the bottom. "It's not about my architectural style, but how I oversee every detail on each bespoke project," Greg explains. ●



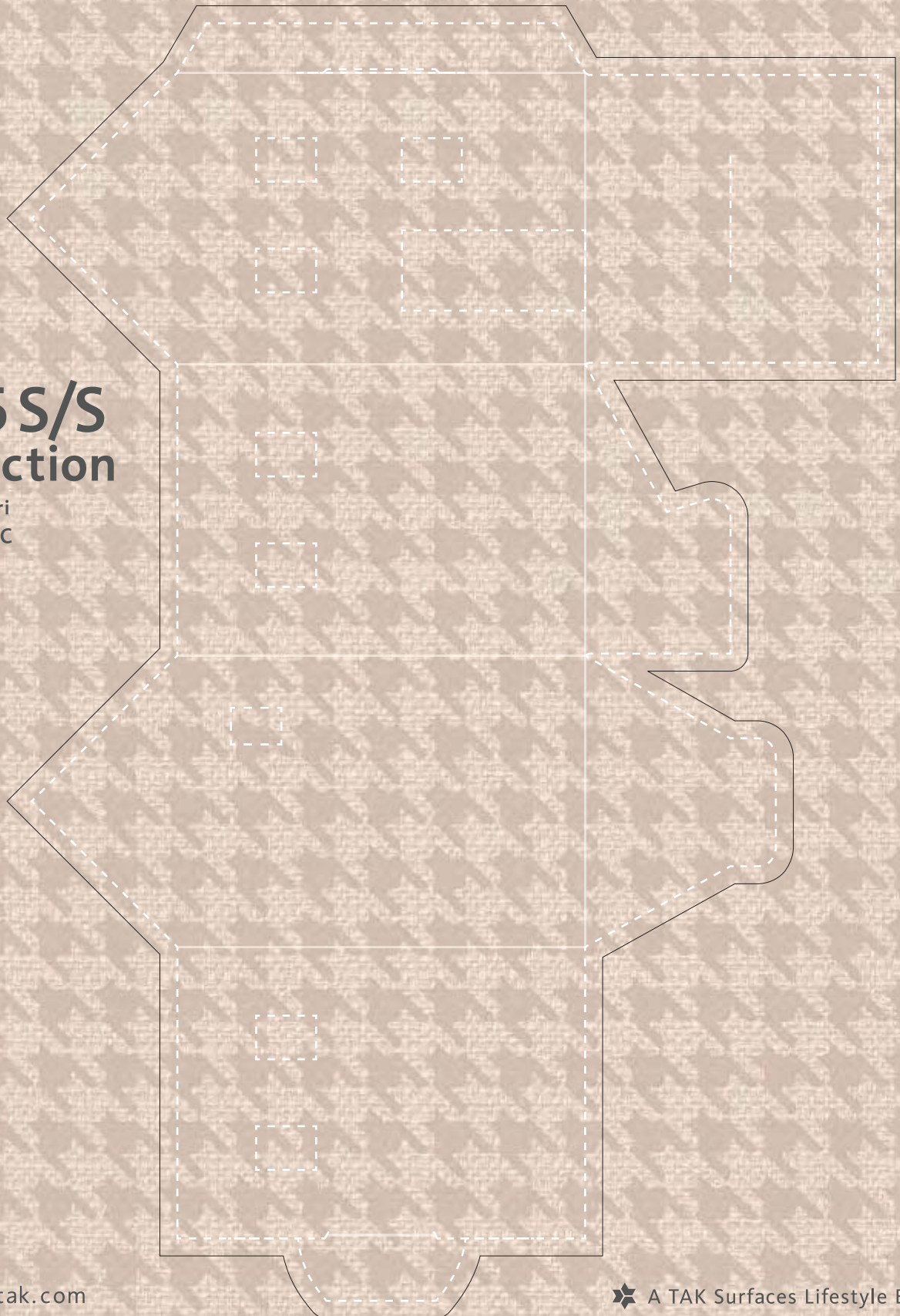
THE INDIAN HERITAGE CENTRE IS LOCATED AT 5 CAMPBELL LANE, AND ADMISSION FOR ADULTS IS \$4. VISIT WWW.INDIANHERITAGE.ORG.SG FOR MORE DETAILS.





2015 S/S Collection

Shiro Chidori
DXO 1345DC



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A large, intricate white line art graphic is centered on the page. It resembles a stylized, abstract map or a complex architectural floor plan, with various rectangular and irregular shapes connected by thin white lines. The graphic is set against a solid red background.

2015 S/S Collection

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SCA 1157D

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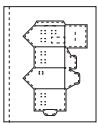
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STEP 2
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STEP 3
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"We carry a wide collection of mid-range to high-end products, with brands from all over the world," says Marcus Wong, Danovel's business development director. Showcased throughout the first and mezzanine floor, the furniture offerings form an eclectic collection. Some examples are contemporary Danish-style designs from Thai brand Philos, classical wooden pieces from premium Italian brand Philipp

ABOVE
A Danovel Owando II ottoman (or coffee table), Philipp Selva Home Platinum chest of drawers and Philipp Selva Tzsar Lara chairs (next to drawers) spruce up a corner beside the showroom entrance.

TOP RIGHT
A variety of fabric samples, such as these from French brand Thevenon, can be viewed at the shop.

RIGHT
Apart from furniture, you can also get soft furnishings and decor accessories here.

Selva Home and rustic country designs from French brand Country Corner.

Popular fabric and wallcovering brands include Andrew Martin, Osborne & Little and Linwood from the UK, Thevenon from France, as well as Thibaut and Fabricut from the US.

For something whimsical, look out for the Sid Dickens collector's tiles from Canada. A personalised selection of accessories and lighting sourced overseas by Marcus completes the showroom.

As Danovel's roots lie in manufacturing – the family business was founded over 20 years ago and specialises in making upholstered furniture – you can get customised pieces done here as well. From sofas, dining chairs and chaise longues to headboards, tables and bookshelves, they are all handmade in the company's local factory. And if you need interior design services, it's no surprise that this one-stop shop can provide those, too! ●

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NEW
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Edit Lifestyle

The interiors of Edit Lifestyle emanate a beach holiday vibe with white-washed floorboards and artfully distressed furniture pieces. The new lifestyle boutique carries a selection of furniture and accessories, including coloured glassware, art lithographs, silk cushions, antique napkins, and vintage deck chairs. Also, look out for themed shopping installations, based on founder Florence Lim's travels and finds from exotic locations.

EDIT LIFESTYLE IS AT TUDOR COURT, 137-139 TANGLIN ROAD, TEL: 6836-5686.



Luxury For All

Adored for his humour and flamboyance, British interior designer and head judge of reality TV series *The Apartment* Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen has launched a collection of sofas and armchairs in collaboration with Courts. Ranging from sensual tufted seating such as the velvet SG50 Cocktail sofa (from \$1,699) that's inspired by Singapore's jet-setting glamour, to contemporary designs such as the Beach Party sofa (from \$799, pictured), the Laurence Collection proves that you don't need to splurge to luxuriate in quality home furnishings!

CHECK OUT THE RANGE AT COURTS OUTLETS, OR LOG ON TO WWW.COURTS.COM.SG FOR MORE DETAILS.

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Fashionable Furniture

Award-winning practice Design Intervention launches its Signature Series of furniture that's designed by an in-house team. The collection features gilded surfaces, sensual shapes and bold designs, for a contemporary luxe look. We love the East-meets-West Chinoiserie designs, such as the Cheongsam Chair (\$3,400, pictured) – a true statement piece!



VIEW THE FULL COLLECTION AT WWW.DESIGNINTERVENTION.COM.SG.



Flower Power

Wallpaper is a great alternative to paint. You definitely can't get the intricacies of the latest wallpaper designs from Timorous Beasties' new range, with paint. The Spring/Summer 2015 collection was inspired by the floral designs of British artist William Morris, and includes an interpretation of his famous Trellis pattern. The bright colours and flower prints seen across the range will give your home a whimsical touch.

TIMOROUS BEASTIES IS AVAILABLE AT BODE, #05-10 TAN BOON LIAT BUILDING, TEL: 9040-3996.



NEW SHOP

Funny Museum by Daniel Wang

Funny Museum shares shop space with Rose Citron French Design at 23 Keong Saik Road, and the store's bright green walls complement its strange designs and curious objects. Spot live octopi preserved in mystical orbs of water, hourglasses filled with magnetic sand, vintage paraphernalia, and bespoke furniture designed by store owner Daniel Wang. It's a crowded space, but you'll be entertained by the plethora of curios.

POP BY AT 23 KEONG SAIK ROAD, TEL: 9339-6130.



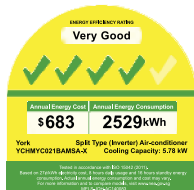
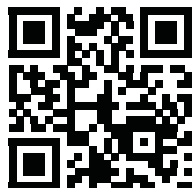
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*App available from Apple® App store and Google Play™ store;
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www.johnsoncontrols.sg/aircon



Sit Up Right

A chair with good support benefits your health. The Freedman Chair is designed to prevent you from slumping forward while seated. The seat supports your spine and pelvis, so they don't collapse (as when you are seated in a conventional chair), but remain in the same position as when you're standing. The small back rest, seat pan and stainless steel wheels give this chair its unique look.



THE FREEDMAN CHAIR RETAILS AT \$1,699, FROM ERGOWORKS. VISIT WWW.ERGOWORKS.COM.SG FOR STORE LOCATIONS.



Firm Comfort

Tired of soft sofas? Harvey Norman has brought in a luxurious solution: Hilker Furniture's Lederwerkstatt collection of firm leather sofas. Direct from Germany, the collection complements Harvey Norman's current range of Italian sofas. The sofas are handcrafted by Hilker's very own leather artisans in Germany, creating high-quality pieces that stay firm over time. The Lederwerkstatt sofas come in two comfort levels, medium and firm.



AVAILABLE AT ALL HARVEY NORMAN STORES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.HARVEYNORMAN.COM.SG



Born In Colour

The K-wave has now reached the domain of home furnishings. The latest collection from local online business Born In Colour comes from South Korea, and offers a range of retro- and vintage-inspired furniture. The small and colourful pieces, such as the Macaron family storage cabinets and Tetris stools (pictured, above), add a touch of humour to homes. The shop also offers Scandinavian and industrial-inspired furniture and accessories.



BORN IN COLOUR IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.BORNINCOLOUR.COM.SG.



No monsters under this bed.

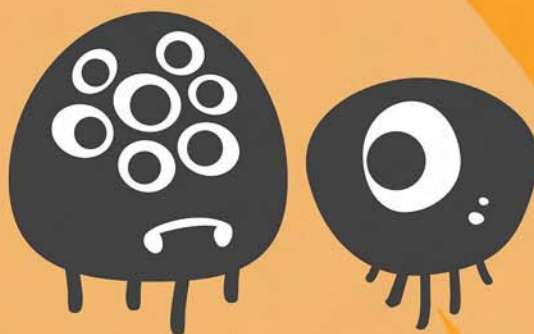


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Ask an Artist

For those new to decorating with art, newly launched art and decor consultancy Wunderwall is here to help. The firm consists of award-winning contemporary artist Rashid Salleh and homeowner Yuen Yee Foong, whose eye for home decor has landed her home in the pages of this magazine. They'll customise or curate art for your space, and provide decorating advice.



VISIT WWW.WUNDERWALLART.COM.

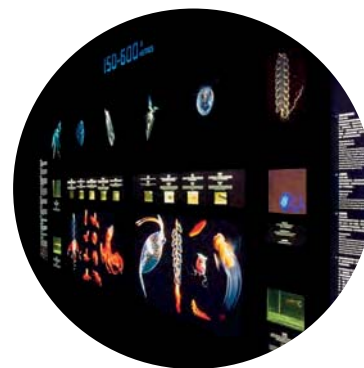


Marimekko

It's here – Singapore's very own stand-alone Marimekko store is now open at the Capitol Piazza. The iconic Finnish fabric company has decked out its airy 2,500sqf sunlit space with minimalist white-and-wood shelving and wood-clad walls, with Scandinavian-style wood furniture and Artek stools thrown in for good measure. The brand's fashion offerings might take precedence in the store, but there's plenty of homeware, bedlinen, towels, and bolts of printed fabrics (sold by the metre) to keep those looking for something for the home happy, too. The brand's bold prints and happy colours sing to the shopper, with Marimekko's signature Unikko floral print (pictured, right) taking centre stage.



MARIMEKKO IS LOCATED AT #02-17/18 CAPITOL PIAZZA, 13 STAMFORD ROAD.



DIARY

The Deep:

**Till Oct 27, from 11am to 8pm,
Art Science Museum,
6 Bayfront Avenue, tel: 6688-8888.
Admission charges apply.**

Discover the remarkable beauty of deep-sea life through photographs, short clips, taxidermy specimens and even an interactive installation at The Deep exhibition. It leads you through the various ocean depths, down to 4,000 metres below the ocean surface. Here, you'll learn more about ocean conservation, too.

Finishing Touch

Choose the right material and finish to set the look of your space. Consider two new colours from the Dekton range by Cosentino – Kelya and Keon. Kelya features light veining against a dark stone-colour, while Keon has the colour and texture of concrete. Dekton, an ultra-compact surface made of raw materials used to manufacture glass, is highly resistant to scratches, heat and stains.



FIND THE DEKTON RANGE AT COSENTINO, 34/35 DUXTON ROAD. VISIT WWW.DEKTON.COM.SG.



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facebook.com/grafunkt

Grafunkt Flagship

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#02-34/35/36 Millenia Walk
Singapore 039596
T 6336 6046

grafunkt.com



Modern Asian

We love how renowned British designer Kelly Hoppen was inspired by lotus flowers, origami, the Japanese *obi* (or sash), and even a stack of wooden and ceramic bowls for a collection of luxury bathware she designed for Apaiser. The range – which includes tubs and washbasins with elegant, fluid lines – is made from reclaimed marble. Instead of feeling hard and cold, the material has a wonderfully tactile surface that feels “soft” against bare skin.

SEE AND FEEL THE PIECES FOR YOURSELF
AT APAISER, 23 MOSQUE STREET, TEL: 6223-2378.

Smaller is Better

If most ceiling fans are too big for your room, take a look at the resized Haiku 52” (from \$1,337.50), designed to accommodate smaller spaces. The fan is 132cm in diameter, and is silent and energy-efficient as it operates at a maximum of only 30 watts per hour. It comes with six speed functions, and in a choice of black or white matrix composite materials, and cocoa- or caramel-coloured bamboo (\$1,498, pictured) with LED add-on options.



HAIKU FANS ARE
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AT #11-02/03
PARK MALL.
TEL: 6709-8500.

Goodbye, Scratches!

Can’t stand scratched surfaces? Check out the latest high-tech material for homes, the Fenix NTM from EDL. This super opaque nanotech material is made of next-generation resin. It has an extremely matte surface, is resistant to abrasion, anti-fingerprint, anti-static, and can self-repair micro-scratches when heat is applied. You can also remove small abrasions with a melamine sponge, available in most household supplies stores.



FENIX NTM IS AVAILABLE
IN FIVE COLOURS. FOR
MORE DETAILS, VISIT
[WWW.EDLEURO.COM/
FENIXNTM](http://WWW.EDLEURO.COM/FENIXNTM).

OUR PICKS

Bookshelves



1 House shelf,
\$999, from
Commune.
2 Serbia shelf,
\$576.73, from
Comfort.
3 Gee shelf,
\$1,263, from
Grafunkt.

LORENZO

SOFAS

MODULARS

RECLINERS

TABLES

DINING CHAIRS

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Open daily: *11am to 8pm/ 11am to 9pm

www.lorenzo-international.com

NEW
SHOP

For The Common Goods

Often associated with the outdoors, rattan furniture is great indoors, too. Examples include pieces by Jakarta-based design studio, Studiohiji – distributed exclusively here by For The Common Goods – such as the Net chair (pictured, left), which pairs a rattan seat with metal legs. The online store also carries brands such as Liao, by a Singaporean designer of modular furniture, and Fred and Bobo, which offers decorative pieces.

VISIT WWW.FORTHECOMMONGOODS.COM.SG,
OR CALL 6908-5049 TO VISIT THE SHOWROOM.

So Dreamy

Turn your soft furnishings into a canvas for art, with the Desire collection by British artist Jessica Zoob for wallpaper and fabric company Romo. The contemporary Impressionist painter creates abstract and dreamy landscapes of colour with an almost ethereal watercolour effect, which are then printed on wallpaper and fabrics. The patterns are subtle enough to be layered to create rooms that look like they came right out of an Impressionist painting.

BLACK EDITION BY ROMO IS AVAILABLE AT
TATUM, 29B KEONG SAIK ROAD, TEL: 6221-2524.



Smarter TVs

The new Sony Bravia 4K LCD and full-HD sets feature the Bravia X series, which supports the latest Google Android operating system. You can stream videos and play games from your smartphone and tablet on the TV screen, which features enhanced clarity and colour accuracy. The X9000C model is also the thinnest LCD screen from Sony so far; only 4.9mm-thick at the narrowest part, it is virtually frameless and can mount almost flush to walls.

THE TV SETS ARE AVAILABLE AT
ALL SONY STORES AND SELECTED
AUTHORISED OUTLETS.



7 Architects x Series 7

Fans of the ubiquitous Fritz Hansen Series 7 chair will be interested to see how seven prominent local architects have reinterpreted the classic, as part of the chair's diamond jubilee celebrations. For the 7 Architects x Series 7 showcase, the masterpiece by Arne Jacobsen, with its signature curved silhouette, has been transformed with different finishes, such as woven leather and gold foil (pictured, above).

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WILD AT HEART

Who let the animals out?
We imagine a world where
beautiful wild creatures come
out to play – in our homes!





Lioness, price upon request, from Kenmar Wildlife.

FROM LEFT

Raft stained oak **dining table**, \$5,290, and Black In Between **chair**, \$1,110, both from Grafunkt. Andreu World Nub **chair** designed by Patricia Urquiola, \$1,469, from Xtra. Knoll black diamond **armchair**, \$3,451, from Dream.

ON TABLE

Copenhagen green light **mat**, \$475, and Copenhagen white light **mat**, \$895, both from Grafunkt. Studio **platter**, \$49.95; Marbury **bowl**, \$25.95; Bellamy **carafe**, price upon request; Mercer low **bowl**, \$11.95; Sandra **champagne flutes**, \$24.95 each; Urban **place setting**, \$55.95 for a set of five; Studio light **clay platter**, \$49.95; Dansk Kobenstyle white **casserole dish**, price upon request, and Beckett Natural (120 inch) **table runner**, \$89.95, all from Crate & Barrel.

BACKGROUND

GSB 267 Bluish Grey **laminat**, price upon request, from Greenlam. **Wall panel mouldings**, price upon request, from The Interior Library.

Other items, stylist's own. ▶



Wallaby, price upon request, from Kenmar Wildlife.

FROM LEFT

Feather **pillow**, \$19; cotton Oxford off-white **pillowcase**, \$16; French feather thin single **duvet**, \$159; cotton Oxford off-white **duvet cover**, \$69; Indian cotton high-density satin hotel-use **fitted sheet**, \$69; Ecru Indian organic cotton waffle **cloth**, \$129, and XL Ecru plain weave linen cushion **slipper**, \$29, all from Muji. Lucie Kaas mint-green **creamer**, \$49; from Bloesem.

BACKGROUND

WBR 5431 Sweet Almond **laminates**, price upon request, from Greenlam.

Other items, stylist's own. ➤







Zebra, price upon request, from Kenmar Wildlife.

FROM LEFT

Caravaggio **floor lamp** by Light Years, \$1,505, from W. Atelier. Design **books** by Luster, \$74 each; from Bloesem. Herman Miller Nelson Coconut **lounge chair**, \$9,959, from Xtra. Reindeer **fur**, \$690, from Dreamweave & Other Stories. Sissi **coffee table** by Novamobili, \$845, from W. Atelier. Geometry espresso **cups**, \$67 for a set of four, and Thermo black **jug**, \$115, both from Grafunkt.

ON WALL

PVB 5617 Prismatic **lamine**, price upon request, from Greenlam.

ON FLOOR

Sillerup **rug**, \$199, from Ikea. CDZ 5409 Alaskan **lamine**, price upon request, from Greenlam. ▶





Baby lion and **African lynx**, price upon request, both from Kenmar Wildlife.

FROM LEFT
My First Bike **balance bicycle**, \$750, from Lush. Fine Little Day pear **poster**, \$59; Tas-ka Lommer Blue (50cm by 50cm) **cushion**, \$59; Lommer Pink (35cm by 50cm) **cushion**, \$49; all from Bloesem. Tegu Discovery set **cubes**, \$159; Miller Goodman Shapemaker **cubes**, \$85, and Ostheimer wooden **musk ox figure**, \$31, all from Stranglets. Armadillo & Co Daisy Sherbet **rug**, \$299; Numero 74 **bunting**, \$30; **teepee**, \$260, and **futon**, \$145, all from Cuckoo.

ON WALL
GSC 169 Rose Pink **laminat**, price upon request, from Greenlam.

ON FLOOR
GWK 5003 Philippine Teak **laminat**, price upon request, from Greenlam.

Other items, stylist's own. ▶



ABOUT THE ANIMALS

No animals were harmed in the making of this feature. Once living creatures, these amazingly lifelike “sculptures” are now the proud work specimens of Ken Mar, Singapore’s best-known taxidermist.

Most animal skins for taxidermy are obtained when the animals have died of natural causes or illness. Imported skins have to be certified by our Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA).



See how we put this feature together in our behind-the-scenes video, only on our digital edition. Turn to page 18 for how to download.

Raccoon, price upon request, from Kenmar Wildlife.

FROM LEFT
Bowen writing **desk**, \$1,099; and **desk lamp**, price upon request, both from Commune. Fritz Hansen Series 7 **chair**, \$1,150, from W. Atelier. Analog **clock**, \$59; and wooden **stand**, \$13.90, both from Muji.

Books, price upon request, from Books Actually. Palomino Blackwing **pencils**, \$3.90 each; vintage **brushes**, \$12 for five, and **tin pitcher**, \$32, all from Bloesem. Holden **vase**, price upon request, and Manzanita **gold branches**, price upon request, both from Crate & Barrel.

BACKGROUND
WBR 107 Wool White and GWC 5018 Brooks Walnut **laminates**, price upon request, both from Greenlam.

Other items, stylist’s own. ●



ON THE DESIGN MAP



Thailand is already known for its traditional craftsmanship, but its design scene is evolving to keep up with international trends. Banking on the country's rich heritage and natural resources, local designers are coming up with smart and sensitive high-quality designs that will make you take a second look. We bring you the highlights from the Bangkok International Gift Fair and Bangkok International Houseware Fair 2015.



△
**MASONRY
 SHELIVING SYSTEM
 BY PLURAL
 DESIGNS**

The Masonry shelving system has an award-winning design, which allows you to personalise it according to your space, and what you want to display. Five modules in varying sizes provide the flexibility for various arrangements – whether combined, or left as individual units – while the hassle-free joint system lets you easily manipulate it to accommodate new objects or spaces.

www.pluraldesigns.net

▷
**1+1 SIDE TABLE
 BY OGGI**

This piece may look simple, but its design is ingenious. Not only is the award-winning 1+1 a side table, but it is also a stool and a magazine holder! Finished in neutral wood tones, you can personalise it by displaying reading material of your choice, and adding a pop of colour to your space. Its contemporary form and versatility make it perfect for any small room.

www.oggi-living.com



◁
**HAND-WOVEN
 OUTDOOR
 FURNITURE
 BY YOTHAKA**

Using colourful hues, interesting silhouettes and unique materials, Yothaka offers an exciting array of designer outdoor furniture. The handcrafted pieces are made with natural materials such as pineapple fibre paper, water hyacinth fibre, rattan and Yan Lipao (a fern vine that grows in abundance only in the forests of southern Thailand), as well as non-toxic, recyclable synthetic materials. Established in 1989, the company is said to have pioneered the use of water hyacinth fibre in the local furniture industry. Complementary accessories, such as trays, baskets, candlesticks and lamps, are also available.

www.yothaka.com ▸



△
**QUIRKY DESIGNS
BY PARAWOOD
DESIGN**

These visually stimulating creations by Parawood Design are made using rubber wood (or parawood) and medium-density fibreboard, and features unconventional shapes and vibrant colours. Sofas, display cases and bookcases have designs inspired by everyday objects and scenes with a "special identity or character", such as London's iconic red telephone box and the canal houses by the Amstel river in the Netherlands (pictured).

www.parawooddesign.net

▷
**FIGHTING FISH
COLLECTION OF
ARMCHAIRS BY
ONE-D STUDIO**

If you recognise these flamboyant colourful wing-back chairs, perhaps it's because you've seen them at Bangkok's Siam Center. One-D Studio initially made the Fighting Fish hand-stitched fabric patchwork chairs for the public areas of the shopping mall, drawing inspiration from the curves and colours of Siamese fighting fish. Also available as a two-seater sofa, each piece is a work of art, featuring a unique pattern with specially selected fabrics. "Customers won't know the exact design they're getting until they receive the chair!" says designer Piya Phasukh.

www.one-dstudio.com



△
**FIOBULA INTERCHANGEABLE
FURNITURE BY DOTS DESIGN
STUDIO**

Filobula by Dots Design Studio is about creating new combinations of furniture using the same elements. The Filo bed and sofa share the same backing – that acts as the headboard or backrest – which users can easily detach and use interchangeably. This concept was also applied to the Macaron stool and bench (pictured), where upholstered seats in various colours can be swapped around to match bases with different wood tones.

www.dotsobject.com



View designs that have won the Design Excellence Award showcased at the DEmark pavilion in the fair. Turn to page 18 for how to download.



IRON WALL ART BY FINE26

Bangkok-based Fine26 makes use of iron to craft nature-inspired "sculptures" for your walls. Featuring elements such as leaves or fish, each piece has an intricate design that is hammered-out and spray-painted by craftsmen. Choose from the designs available, or customise your own. Regardless of size, each piece has been designed to be flat-packed and easily put together by the user.

www.fine26.com



FURNITURE DESIGNS USING PAPER BY AYODHYA

Ayodhya turns mulberry paper, as well as recycled newspaper, into contemporary furniture and decor. Combining them with materials such as glass and metal, the company creates striking 3-D forms for tables, stools, lighting, mirrors and more. Thanks to the sculptural quality of the designs, the perception of the humble material is elevated, as the paper gives each piece a soft touch.

www.ayodhyatrade.com



SOFT FURNISHINGS MADE OUT OF LEFTOVER FABRICS BY BUA BHAT

Bua Bhat applies traditional weaving skills to leftover fabrics from garment factories to produce fashionable soft furnishings for the home. Based in a Chiang Mai village, the company employs local housewives, allowing them to have an income while staying home to look after their children. Bedspreads, throw cushions, rugs and curtains are examples of the attractive, highly textured handmade soft furnishings available. The brand also exhibited at the International Furniture Fair Singapore 2015 earlier this year.

www.buabhat.com



A TALE OF WOOD AND CLAY BY YARNNAKARN ART & CRAFT STUDIO & ATELIER 2+

A Tale Of Wood And Clay is a whimsical collection of storage cabinets and display shelves by Yarnnakarn Art & Craft Studio and Atelier 2+. Wood comes together with ceramic birds, butterflies and more, expressing the poetic concept of "coexistence between man and nature". Yarnnakarn Studio is known for its quaint ceramic pottery designs, and Atelier 2+ for its art-inspired product designs.

www.yarnnakarn.com,
www.ateliertwoplus.com



What's Trending

Here are three things that Thai designers and manufacturers are currently embracing.



REFINED WOOD

Making furniture and decor out of wood is nothing new in Thailand, but designers and manufacturers are fabricating items with more refined, modern interpretations using traditional methods.

As seen at Pana Objects, Chabatree (pictured) and Exact, lifestyle accessories and home decor have almost minimalist aesthetics, with smooth, gentle silhouettes.

www.pana-objects.com, www.chabatree.com,
www.exactintertrade.co.th

AS GOOD AS NEW

With the increasing global awareness of sustainability, many are adopting eco-friendly resources and procedures to create trendy and stylish furniture and furnishings. Examples of such companies include Sonite (which uses acrylic scraps and other discarded substances, such as coffee grounds), Sabai-D (which upcycles reclaimed wood, painting them in attractive colours) and Bua Bhat (which utilises leftover fabric from factories).

www.sonitesurfaces.com, www.iamsabai-d.com,
www.buabhat.com



COOL ART

Industrial qualities aside, the ornamental potential of metal is gaining recognition. Local companies, such as Fine26 (using iron), Boonchan Steel Art Design (using steel) and 5ive Sis (using pewter, pictured), are making the most of the material's cool, shiny appearance and malleability to create beautiful and complex contemporary art and decorative objects.

www.fine26.com, www.5ivesis.com ●



Extra storage without the extra space.

A bed can be more than a space to sleep. With the right furniture, you can also turn your sleeping space into a smart place for storage. Our storage beds have in-built storage spaces, so you can maximise space, while keeping your bedroom spacious.



MALM ottoman bed
L209×W166, H38/100cm.
White.

\$799



MALM bed frame, high, with 4 storage boxes \$649
L209×W166, H38/100cm.
White.



BRUSALI bed frame with 4 storage boxes \$449
L206×W168, H46/93cm.
White.

BRIMNES bed frame with storage \$499
L206×W158, H47cm.
White.



HURDAL bed frame with 4 storage boxes \$1,199
L209×W163, H84/125cm.
Light brown.

All bed frames shown are queen size and take mattress size L200×W150cm (sold separately).



GLOBAL DESIGN AT LARGE



See more innovative new designs from Milan's Fuorisalone in our digital edition. Turn to page 18 for how to download.

Singapore

Fresh, exciting concepts dominated Singapore's design contingent at the La Triennale di Milano.

Designers from all over the globe descended upon Milan's central districts during the city's design week to show off their work, which resulted in more than a thousand events around town.

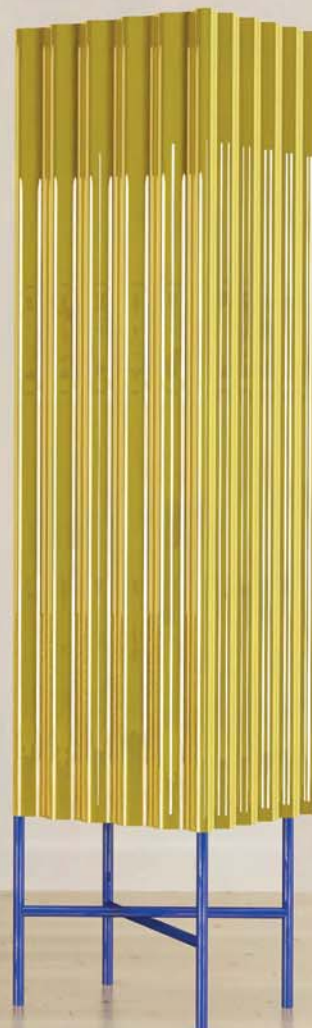
Known as Fuorisalone, these showcases in popular zones such as Ventura Lambrate and Zona Tortona broadened our minds with their experimental designs; the cultural 5vie Art + Design quarter demonstrated that luxe designs can be weird and wonderful at the same time; and the Brera district was brimming with inspiration, thanks to the impressive design installations in various showrooms.

Here are the brands and designers that stood out – we suggest you keep them on your design radar for the year ahead.

THE ALCHEMISTS

The Alchemists' exhibition featured themed works by Singaporean talents, with the aim of expressing the magic of alchemy through design. Two pieces which hit the nail on the head are Hans Tan's Pour table, which showcases the beauty of coloured resin when cast without a mould, and Lanzavecchia & Wai's Fool's Gold cabinets (pictured), which elevated the value of corrugated steel sheets with gold-chrome car wrap.

www.alchemists.sg





America

We were awed by the many stunning showcases put up by American design brands.

HERMAN MILLER

In a stimulating exhibition held in its Corso Garibaldi showroom, contemporary and classic Herman Miller furniture were upholstered in Scholten & Baijings' designs for textile company Maharam. The large motifs enabled few repeats, lending individuality to each upholstered piece of furniture.

www.hermanmiller.com

CAESARSTONE

Housed within the majestic Palazzo Serbelloni palace, Caesarstone held a much-talked about installation that presented graphic vases by Canadian designer Philippe Malouin. The geometric designs, which showcase traditional inlay and marquetry, demonstrate the versatility of the brand's solid surfaces.



See Caesarstone's fantastic swing installation within the Palazzo's grand hall in our digital edition. Turn to page 18 for how to download.



APPARATUS

New York-based design studio Apparatus took over a disused shop unit in the 5vie Art + Design district, and set up a gallery-like showcase of its sculptural lighting fixtures. The lights bring aged brass, leather, porcelain, and even horsehair, together in a modern fashion, while embodying a hint of vintage aesthetics.

www.apparatusstudio.com



The Netherlands

Known for their offbeat and often humorous designs, Dutch designers continued to delight the crowd this year with arresting pieces.



Get a feel of Mooodi's stunning exhibition space in our digital edition. Turn to page 18 for how to download.



Read about Marcel Wanders' passion for collaborating with young designers at www.tinyurl.com/MarcelWandersMilan.

MOODI

Returning to its exhibition space at Via Savona, the Dutch powerhouse put together another design extravaganza, bringing new and old products, and artist Rahi Rezvani's haunting photographs, together in imaginative settings. Mooodi's covetable pieces for the home this year include the larger-than-life Arion rocking unicorn (pictured, above) by Marcel Wanders and a large collection of digitally printed carpets (pictured, right) featuring audacious, high definition artworks by various artists and designers.

www.mooodi.com



STUDIO SYBRANDY

Inspired by the iridescent beauty of soap bubbles, artist designer Nienke Sybrandy's products are simple and playful. They include the Bubblewrap blanket made of mohair wool and cotton, Powers of Soap tea towels, and Double Bubble tablecloths (pictured) that utilise shimmering Lurex to mimic the rainbow-like tint of bubbles.

www.studiosybrandy.nl





NLXL

Famed for his books on everyday household objects, Frenchman Daniel Rozensztroch's collaboration with Dutch wallpaper manufacturer NLXL resulted in something delightfully eccentric – the Obsession series, which features dozens of hanger, toothbrush and spoon designs.

www.nlxl.com



LAIVE

Dutch design label Laive distributes a host of items that straddle art and design, including quirky plant sculptures designed by Wandschappen, a studio made up of designers Nicole Driessens and Ivo van den Baar, who love craft and textiles. These "plants" are made entirely out of wool felt – perfect for those who aren't blessed with a green thumb!

www.wandschappen.nl



SOON SALON

Designed by Kai Linke and Johannes Hemann, Soon Salon's new Catching the Wild hanger successfully captures both the excitement of the Wild West and the humour that's ubiquitous in Dutch designs.

www.soonsalon.com



MARK STURKENBOOM

As a young artist who creates products that go beyond basic functionality, Mark Sturkenboom's works can often be passed off as strange sculptures. But take a closer look, and you'll be rewarded with a surprise. For example, Watching Time Fly By is a clever play on the idiom as it features a fly that makes one round every minute, allowing one to – literally – watch time fly by.

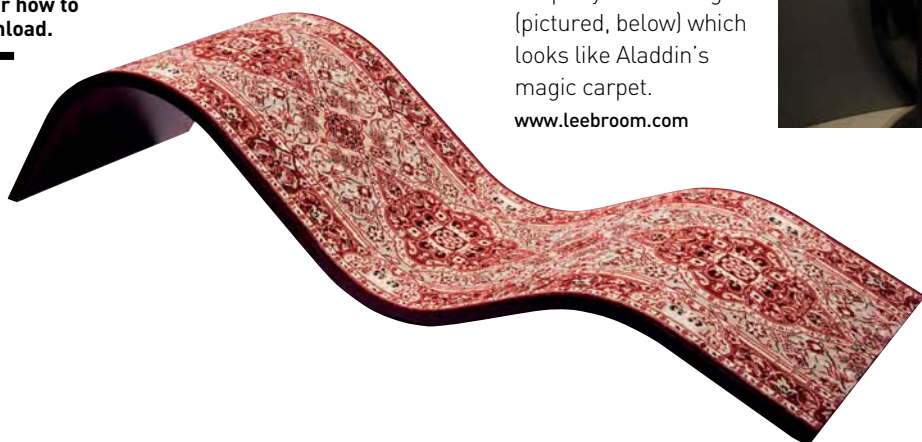
www.marksturkenboom.com

Britain

New products aside, we had to give it to the Brits this year for putting up unforgettable site-specific showcases.



Walk through Lee Broom's pop-up "department store" in our digital edition. Turn to page 18 for how to download.



LEE BROOM

Over 20 new products – from furniture to tabletop items – were launched at Lee Broom's The Department Store, where nostalgia was in full force. Outstanding pieces include the playful Hanging Hoop chair, elegant Millinery Ring lights (pictured, right), and the amusing Carpentry chaise longue (pictured, below) which looks like Aladdin's magic carpet.

www.leebroom.com



MADE IN RATIO

As a brand that fully embraces technological advances in furniture manufacturing, Made in Ratio's new stackable Alpha chair, which is entirely created by a digital woodcarving machine, comes as no surprise. Compared to the time-consuming practice of manual woodcarving, the CNC router machine is able to create the chair's architectural A-shaped back and legs in a significantly shorter amount of time.

www.madeinratio.com



SE

London-based brand Se put up a gorgeous exhibition at the Spazio Rossana Orlandi, presenting its luxurious new collection within an elegantly storied space. Made in collaboration with Slovenian designer Nika Zupanc, the range includes sofas, chairs, mirrors and cabinets with a vintage, feminine slant.

www.se-london.com





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TOM DIXON

A pop-up Tom Dixon exhibition was set up within an old cinema in the heart of the city, where the new Melt (pictured, above) and Lens (left) lights, as well as Wingback chair, were unveiled and made available for sale – deferring from the conventional practice of presenting prototypes at the Milan Design Week.

www.tomdixon.net



H FURNITURE

The Pie Chart System by design studio Herve for H Furniture consists of four pieces that can be grouped together in various permutations to create playful forms. The quarter and half modules can be flushed against a wall or sofa to maximise smaller spaces.

www.hfurniture.co



See the Pie Chart System's variations in our digital edition. Turn to page 18 for how to download.



PLUMEN

The well-loved Plumen bulbs now have a new "dress" to throw on. Created by 3-D printing design brand Formaliz3d, the Kayan lampshade has a silhouette that echoes the iconic curves of energy-efficient light bulbs.

www.plumen.com

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GIOPATO & COOMBES

Anglo-Italian duo Giopato & Coombes drew parallels of the “immateriality of light” with the lightness of soap bubbles. The Bolle lamp, which involves hand-blown glass, was created in an attempt to immortalise the beautiful moment when bubbles collide, before exploding.

www.giopatocoombes.com

COTTO

Recognised for his refined aesthetics, designer Piero Lissoni took fundamental patterns, such as lines and grids, to create stylish ceramic tiles for Cotto’s Patchwork collection. Its subtle patterns, coupled with colour variations such as dark blue and graphite, bring an elegance that’s quintessentially Italian, to washrooms.

www.cotto.com

Italy

Both established and emerging Italian brands continue to explore ways to stay ahead of the game.



GIAN PAOLO VENIER

The new Na_Na collection by designer Gian Paolo Venier reinterprets grandiose, classical furniture with a contemporary twist. He has also incorporated portions of 19th century French artist Gustave Dore’s engravings in the Pepper side tables and Dill shelf.

www.gianpaolovenier.com

PIETRO TRAVAGLINI

Stratosfera is a space-efficient coffee table by Pietro Travaglini that combines art, design, and a dose of science-fiction fantasy. While it’s a sphere when closed, it can expand into four interconnected coffee tables of varying heights, making it a nifty piece for those who entertain a lot at home!

www.pietrotravaglinidesign.com

KARTELL

In a colourful homage to the late architect and designer Ettore Sottsass, who was a core member of the 1980s Memphis design movement, Kartell launched a collection of unproduced pieces he designed in 2004. It includes pop-coloured vases, stools, and a pendant light. In addition, Kartell’s flagship store was done up in a riot of colours that represented the movement’s aesthetics!

www.kartell.com



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Denmark

Time-honoured concepts of functionality continue to govern Danish designs seen at this year's exhibitions.



FRITZ HANSEN

In the wake of the popular Fritz Hansen Ro chair, Jaime Hayon has followed up with the Fri ("free" in Danish) chair. Compared with the enveloping Ro, Fri (pictured, below) has a lower back, allowing users more interaction with their surroundings. The upholstered Sammen dining chair is another new design by the Spanish designer that was introduced in Fritz Hansen's newly refurbished showroom. www.fritzhanzen.com

Jaime Hayon talks about working with Fritz Hansen at www.tinyurl.com/JaimeHayonMilan.



KAREN LUNDMARK

The Weave chair was created by Karen Lundmark, a furniture design student at Denmark's VIA University College, in an attempt to lengthen the lifespan of unwanted clothing. She invited visitors to "create" the chair by weaving pieces of textiles through its metal frame, and says that she hopes this design will encourage people to think about how much they're consuming – and discarding. www.karenlundmark.wix.com/lundmarkdesign



See how the Hamon clock hypnotises in our digital edition. Turn to page 18 for how to download.



TAKT PROJECT

The Dye It Yourself chair by Japanese design studio Takt Project blends the convenience of mass production with the exclusivity of handcrafted products. The idea is for consumers to take home a standard white plastic chair, and personalise it by dipping it in dye. www.taktproject.com



TOKYO DESIGN WEEK

Student works drew a lot of attention at the Tokyo Design Week showcase, thanks to their good-looking and clever concepts. These include the Yurari bench by Hiromi Aramaki, Shiori Sugiyama, and Tomomi Suzuki, which injects fun into public benches, and the Hamon clock (pictured, above) by Kensho Miyoshi, which has hands resting on the surface of the water to create hypnotic ripples as it ticks away.

www.tokyodesignweek.jp



Japan

No strangers to the international design scene, Japan's emerging designers prove that they still have so much more to offer.

SPACE SMART



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7 SMALL SPACE DESIGN RULES – DEBUNKED!

Forget all your preconceived notions about designing a small space – we tell you why breaking the rules can work, too!



A photograph of a modern interior space. In the foreground, a bright orange leather armchair is partially visible, with a brown fringed throw blanket draped over its back. A small glass table in front of the chair holds a glass of red wine and a plate of food. The background shows a kitchenette with a white countertop, a coffee machine, and a glass-fronted cabinet. The walls are a deep charcoal color, and the floor is made of dark wood. To the right, a tall, narrow bookshelf is visible.

Rule 1

Use only light or neutral colours

WHY BREAK IT

While it is true that white spaces appear larger, dark shades can work their own magic, giving your space mood, and visually downplaying the area's compact dimensions. Furthermore, dark colours are more forgiving and help hide architectural flaws.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Rather than using jet black, which can look tacky, go for deep, elegant hues such as navy blue, chocolate brown and charcoal, as used on the walls of this 818sqf apartment. Layer various shades to create depth, and balance with some light colours in soft furnishings or upholstery to keep it from looking monotonous. Add some shiny objects for contrast and interest! ▶

Rule 2

Keep furniture simple

WHY BREAK IT

Statement furniture (such as oversized pieces or those with bold designs) can actually make a small room feel more spacious. With a great statement piece, visual drama is created, which draws the eye away from the physical boundaries of a room.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Go with one or two prominent pieces – at most – that are functional, and place them strategically to create a focal point. For seating, as exemplified in the living room of this 484sqf HDB flat, choose larger pieces that can comfortably accommodate more people, rather than many small seats that will make the space look untidy.



design D'HAUS

Rule 3

Don't waste space with a bathtub

WHY BREAK IT

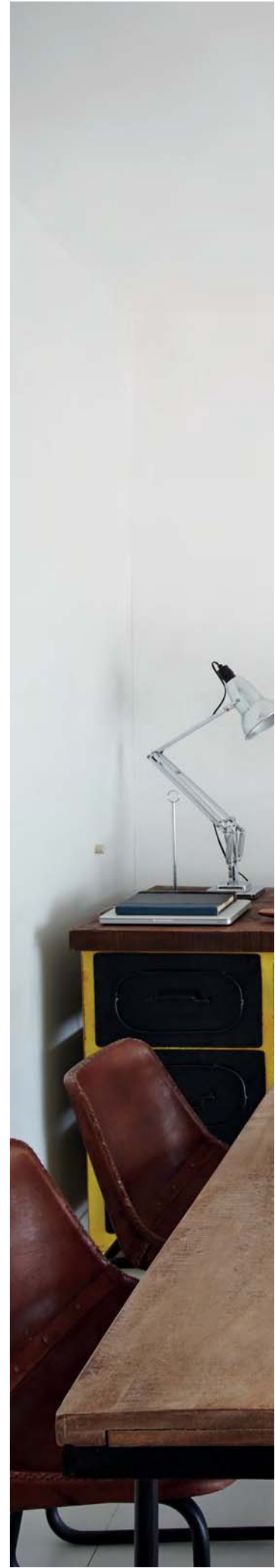
You may think that standing showers are more practical, in terms of time and space constraints, but a bathtub can make your bathroom much more luxurious. It is possible to fit a more compact version into, say, a HDB-flat bathroom, too!

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Install a Japanese soaking tub, which has a smaller foot print but are much deeper, with built-in seats. Or, as seen in this compact shower area, squeeze in a vintage-style claw-foot tub, which is not as long as contemporary models. Free-standing designs such as these don't require extra space for a deck, so they're ideal. Also, look for models which can take shower attachments, so you can also use the tub as a shower tray.



design SPACE SENSE





Rule 4

Choose lamps that are small and compact

WHY BREAK IT

Since lights are the jewellery of a room, an oversized lamp can make a fabulous statement in a small space! Not only will an oversized piece help pull a room's look together, but it will also visually enlarge the room by emphasising the ceiling height (as seen on the left), or a long wall, for example.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

To create drama without complicating the look, choose a lamp design that echoes the aesthetics of your space – clean silhouettes to match a minimalist setting, or colours that match other objects. Also, don't use oversized lamps for all your lights — pick just one or a matching pair, such as these pictured below. They relate to the colours and shapes of the tables in the living room of the 640sqf three-room HDB flat. ➤



Rule 5

Keep walls plain

WHY BREAK IT

Make the most of a room's height with a patterned feature wall, which takes up zero floor area. As the easiest way to add a wow factor, a decorative wall can transform an otherwise plain space easily!

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Concentrate on just one wall so as not to overwhelm the room. As seen in this cosy and understated bedroom (pictured, above), the patterned feature wall acts as a backdrop for the bed, allowing the homeowner to do away with a headboard. Ensure that the patterns and colours are in harmony with the rest of the home's elements – for example, in this apartment (pictured, right), where the monochromatic print complements the space's neutral hues. Materials you can use on the wall include tile, laminate, and wallpaper.



design WY-TO ARCHITECTS



design DREAMMETAL



Rule 6

Less is more

WHY BREAK IT

Yes, you should avoid cluttering up your home, but a small home doesn't have to mean a bare and boring one. So, don't be afraid to include decor accessories to let your personality shine through.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Display knick-knacks, souvenirs and other accessories in an odd corner or an area that would otherwise be wasted. Keep items off the floor; instead, make use of wall-mounted shelves, bookcases and ledges, as seen in this charming HDB-flat bathroom. Curate your showcase – pick objects of a similar scale to keep it looking neat. ➤



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See all the stylish products you can use to break the rules, only in our digital edition. Turn to page 18 for how to download.

Rule 7

Decorate only in one style

WHY BREAK IT

Instead of restraining your decorating style, integrating a variety of styles makes your space more casual and the overall decor scheme less “trendy” and more timeless. Plus, you can easily add new pieces and swop them around for versatility within a small space.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Follow a consistent colour theme so that your home looks cohesive, even though you have various objects with different styles. Furnish such that pieces are mixed throughout the room, rather than grouped according to styles, so it doesn’t visually cut up the space. In this 500sqf studio apartment (pictured, left), contemporary stools are mixed with a vintage-style chair around the dining table. ●



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INSPIRED BY NATURE

This contemporary, eco-friendly home
is designed to be family-friendly.

WHO

A couple and their
two young daughters

HOME

Three-storey,
seven-bedroom
semi-detached house

SIZE

5,000sqf





As the homeowners often entertain guests, they chose an open concept for the kitchen for a more social space. ▶



The interiors are bright and airy with a casual homey vibe, which is further enhanced by a mix of furniture in different styles.

ABOVE
The couple's eclectic taste in decor is evident in the dining room, which has been furnished in a mix of styles.

ABOVE
Pops of colour from the furniture stand out against the living room's neutral colour scheme.

ABOVE, LEFT
The powder room on the ground floor boasts an open concept, and a specially designed "washbasin".

TOP LEFT
The couple had a pair of mangrove roots, which were purchased from Zia Concept, made into door handles for the main entrance.



Despite its imposing facade, you instantly feel at ease as you step into the home of Christopher and Winnie Box. The spacious three-storey house has a neutral colour palette accented with lots of warm wood tones, and a mix of furniture in various decor styles. The pieces that form the eclectic collection have been amassed over the years from all over the world, says Winnie, and they include custom-made pieces and auction buys.

Moving from their previous home – a conservation shophouse that “was not catered to kids” – the couple specifically wanted their new place to be family-friendly. They also liked the idea of bringing the outdoors in. Designer Thomas Tham of Substance Living worked very closely with their architect to provide lots of open space, a well-ventilated layout suitable for entertaining large groups, and even a pool, which their five- and eight-year-old daughters enjoy.

The house was built from scratch, costing \$1.6 million, with an additional \$120,000 (excluding furniture) for the interiors. Here’s how the bright and airy interiors were designed:

Intimate spaces were opened up

A unique feature of the house is its bathrooms, which are given a natural, open feel with tall openings instead of windows. Lush foliage planted outside act as screens. “Initially, our friends were afraid that the neighbours could see them while they were using the bathroom!” laughs Winnie.

The top-floor master bathroom has a semi-outdoor shower area, and the ground-floor powder room does away with a conventional washbasin. Water from the faucet, installed on a cantilevered piece of wood, flows directly onto the floor of pebbles that conceal the water drainage. ▴



LEFT
Up on the top floor sits a family-cum-entertaining area, which extends to an expansive balcony with a view of the neighbourhood.



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TOP LEFT
Winnie and her husband had in mind a family-friendly home that was casual and comfortable.

TOP RIGHT
The master bedroom, like the rest of the bedrooms, has an adjoining balcony to enhance the feeling of openness.

MIDDLE, LEFT
A planter was created at the bottom of the air well on the second floor to provide more soothing green views.

MIDDLE, RIGHT
The staircase and corridor leading to the girls' bedrooms are bathed in natural light streaming in through overhead glass panels.

BOTTOM
Fitted out entirely with Hansgrohe fixtures and sanitaryware, the daughters' shared bathroom won an award in a design competition organised by the brand!

Air wells created for better ventilation and more light

Having two strategically positioned air wells means that the entire house is constantly breezy. The first one is situated next to the dining area on the ground floor, and cuts through the entire height of the house. Winnie plans to add a water feature in this courtyard-like space. The other air well, situated on the second floor next to the daughters' shared bathroom, is also used for plants. As the home is well-ventilated, the family rarely uses air conditioning, she shares.

Transitional spaces brightened with natural light

Stairwells and corridors are usually dark areas. In order to make the transitional spaces of the home more pleasant to walk through, a glass ceiling and full-height glass windows were installed above the staircase and along the corridor leading to the girls' bedrooms. This allows copious amounts of daylight into the otherwise dim areas, minimising the need for lights.

Many alfresco areas were included

Roomy balconies and patios on every floor of the house allow the family to step out for a breath of fresh air. On the ground floor, adjacent to the open kitchen and living room, is an alfresco dining area by the pool.

This is Winnie's favourite spot, as she and her husband chill out here on weekends while keeping an eye on their daughters as they swim. On the third floor, which extends to a generously sized balcony, is where the couple often entertains big groups.

Eco-friendly systems were integrated

To make their home as eco-friendly as possible, Christopher and Winnie covered the entire roof with solar panels, which set them back \$40,000.

Under the recommendation of a friend who is a water conservation consultant, they also had a "bio-retention system" installed. It makes use of excess rain water from the garden to flush the toilets and irrigate the plants. Therefore, apart from doing their part for the environment, long-term savings on their utility bills are also guaranteed! ●

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WARM WELCOME

Thanks to its warm colour scheme, this industrial-style home remains cosy and welcoming.

WHO

A couple and
their toddler

HOME

Five-room HDB flat
in Punggol

SIZE

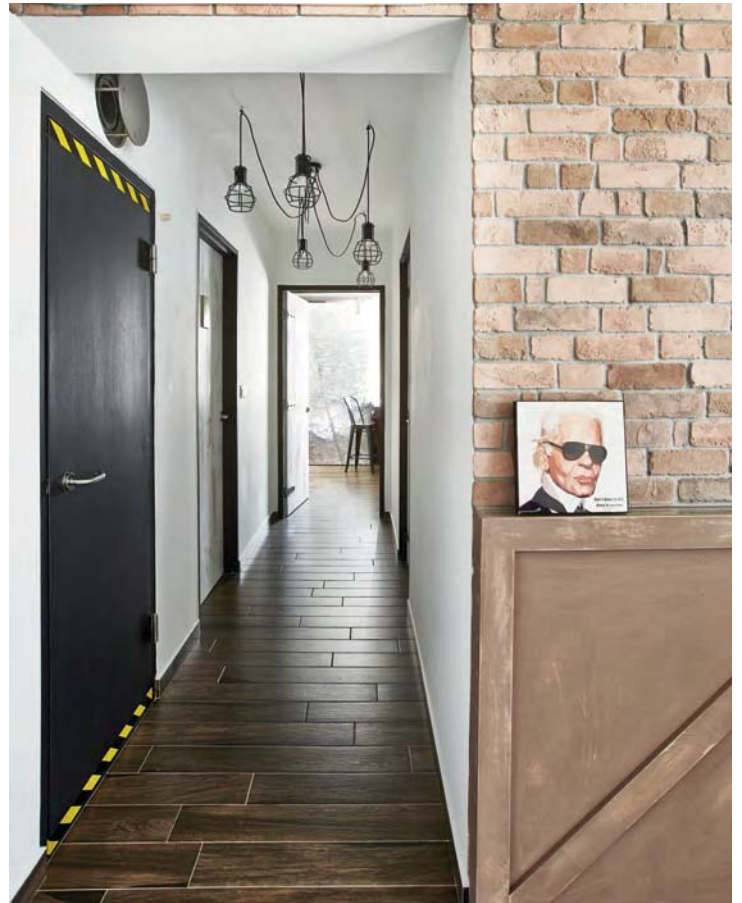
1,184sqf

RIGHT
The cerulean armchair lends a pop of colour to the wood-toned living room, while the graphic cushions give the classic chesterfield sofa a modern touch. ►









With an upsurge of industrial-inspired cafes around town, it is no surprise that frequent cafe-hoppers Jason Pang and Cherlene Tan wanted an industrial theme for their first home. It was their only request to designer Kelvin Teo of Space Sense, who interpreted the style in a warmer treatment.

Dark wood-lookalike tiles cover the floors, while terracotta brick veneer and barn door-like wainscoting clad one living room wall. Breaking away from the industrial look is the brown chesterfield sofa from Locus Habitat, which anchors the area. This classic piece is the couple's only must-have item.

Black metal design features run throughout the rest of this HDB five-room residence. You see it first beyond the entrance, where a massive metal shoe cabinet sits against a wall. "It's like two centipedes live here," quips Jason as he opens the shipping

ABOVE, LEFT
Kevin created a design out of the exposed electrical piping in the kitchen.

ABOVE
The barn door-inspired wainscoting doubles as a slender picture ledge.

OPPOSITE
The shoe cabinet is personalised with white stenciled labels reminiscent of those found on shipping containers.

RIGHT
The wall between the kitchen and the dining area was torn down to create a roomier, open-plan space which could then fit a narrow kitchen island.

[OPPOSITE] TOP
The capacious closet boasts open racks and a single aluminium sliding door, while the centre island – which displays a neat collection of snapbacks – anchors the room.

BOTTOM
To create a restful sanctuary, Kelvin toned down the decorative elements in the bedroom and utilised a quiet, monochrome palette instead.





container-inspired cabinet to reveal over 100 pairs of stilettos and sneakers.

To complete the look of a “moving” shipping container, the designer incorporated an I-beam in the design of the TV console and a decorative pulley system beside the storage unit, creating an “art installation” that is also functional, he explains.

Masculine and sleek, the monochromatic kitchen boasts a backsplash of black subway tiles and exposed piping that conceals lighting cables. Here, the wall that once zoned the kitchen was hacked away to create a light-filled, open-plan space. The nine-month-long renovation, which cost about \$82,000 (excluding fixtures and furniture), also included the removal of a wall between two bedrooms – the larger of which was converted into a walk-in wardrobe.

It is the abundance of wood tones that balance out the rugged aesthetics of this apartment to make it a homely and inviting space to dwell in. As Jason puts it: “If it’s too industrial, it’ll feel like you’re coming home to a prison cell every day.” ●

WHERE TO GO

Space Sense, TEL: 6858-5258



FAMILIAR COMFORTS

A peppy mix of different elements brings not only energy, but also a sense of homely comfort, to this apartment's fluid spaces.

WHO

Two men in their 40s
and 50s, and their dog

HOME

Three-bedroom
condominium in the
Upper Thomson area

SIZE

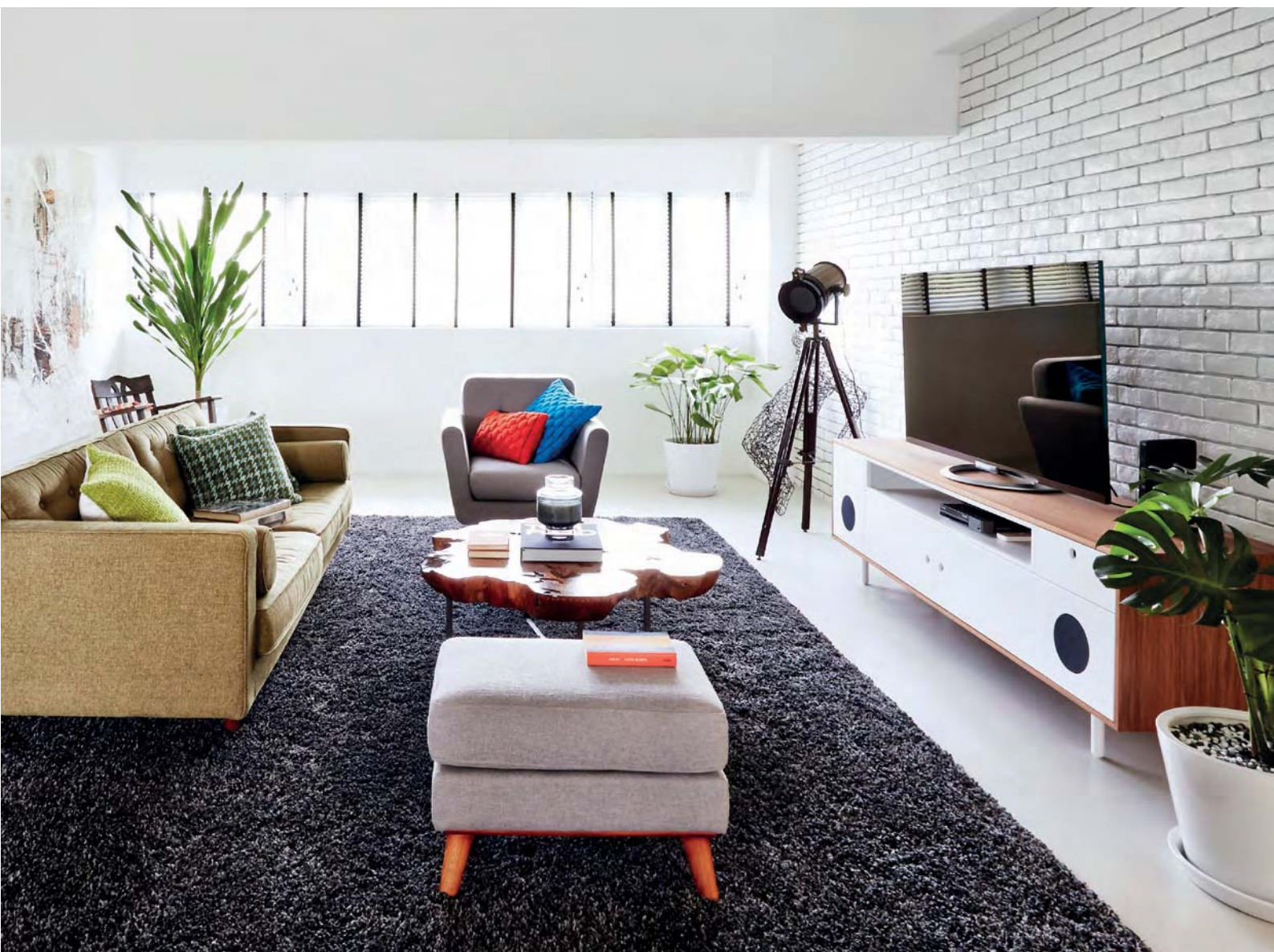
1,615sqf

RIGHT
A large entryway
creates a fluid
flow of space
between the
study-cum-
guest bedroom
and living area.
This space can
be closed up
with sliding
partitions
when guests
stay over. ➤









Luxury retailer Jack Lee isn't short of worldly possessions – so it's remarkable how the 44-year-old keeps his 1,615sqf apartment looking uncluttered. The animal-themed artwork, wood furnishings and whimsical statement pieces breathe life and colour into the all-white shell of the open-concept areas. "It's a personal space that reflects our individual style," Jack says. It is no wonder then, that he and housemate Jed feel instantly relaxed when they come home.

Jack had bought the apartment, without even viewing it, after being smitten by photographs of its lush treetop views and a nearby reservoir. As part of the renovation works, which cost \$100,000, designers James Koh and Benny Loke from 19sixtyseven took down some walls, such as the partition between the living area and kitchen, to allow the homeowners to enjoy the view from anywhere in the home. The all-white colour palette was picked "as it would not draw attention from the view", Jack explains. ➤

ABOVE
Peg legs give the furnishings in the open-concept living area a lighter, quirkier look. Sliding windows maximise the view and natural ventilation.

(OPPOSITE) TOP
The unobtrusive full-height acrylic shoe cabinet was designed to visually blend into the white walls.

BOTTOM
Jack and Jed love vintage furniture, such as this rocking chair.



An off-white Pandomo floor – a type of cement-based levelling compound – lends a sense of depth to the colour scheme, while pulling together the common areas. There is a smattering of wood pieces, such as a curvy teak coffee table with butterfly carvings from Bali, and the dining table, which is paired with Eames chairs in varying shades of blue – a natural hue the homeowners favour. “We used a lot of wood to warm up the place, so it doesn’t look too cold,” says Jack.

A combination of old and new items gives the home character, too, with Jack’s penchant for vintage furniture providing a vivid contrast to the kitchen’s gleaming quartz bar counter and ceiling-hung stainless steel wine-glass and cookbook rack.

Potted plants, and floral arrangements by Jack, bring the outside in, providing refreshing vignettes leading to the bedroom. In the bedroom, a dog-shaped lamp from Paris and an artwork of a pooch – a nod to their pet – add a personal dimension to the space. “The apartment really suits our taste and lifestyle, whether we want to entertain or rest after a jog,” says Jack. ▶

WHERE TO GO

19sixtyseven, TEL: 9797-8955

LEFT
The homeowners chose a quartz kitchen countertop as it provides a seamless surface and is easy to maintain.

(OPPOSITE) TOP LEFT
A painting from Vietnam paired with one of Jack’s floral arrangements compose a pretty picture.

TOP RIGHT
Jack bought a photographer’s studio lamp to serve as a centrepiece for the living area. Industrial elements such as a wire mesh sculpture and brick-tile wall add an edgy vibe.

BOTTOM
A pendant lamp from Italy, and Eames chairs in two shades of blue jazz up the utilitarian dining table.





LEFT

In the spare bedroom, a 20-plus-year-old armchair was reupholstered in light grey fabric and electric blue piping to give it a new lease of life.

BELOW

White subway tiles keep the bathroom light and bright, with a slight industrial edge. ➤

The various wood tones and spots of greenery turn the apartment into an idyllic oasis.





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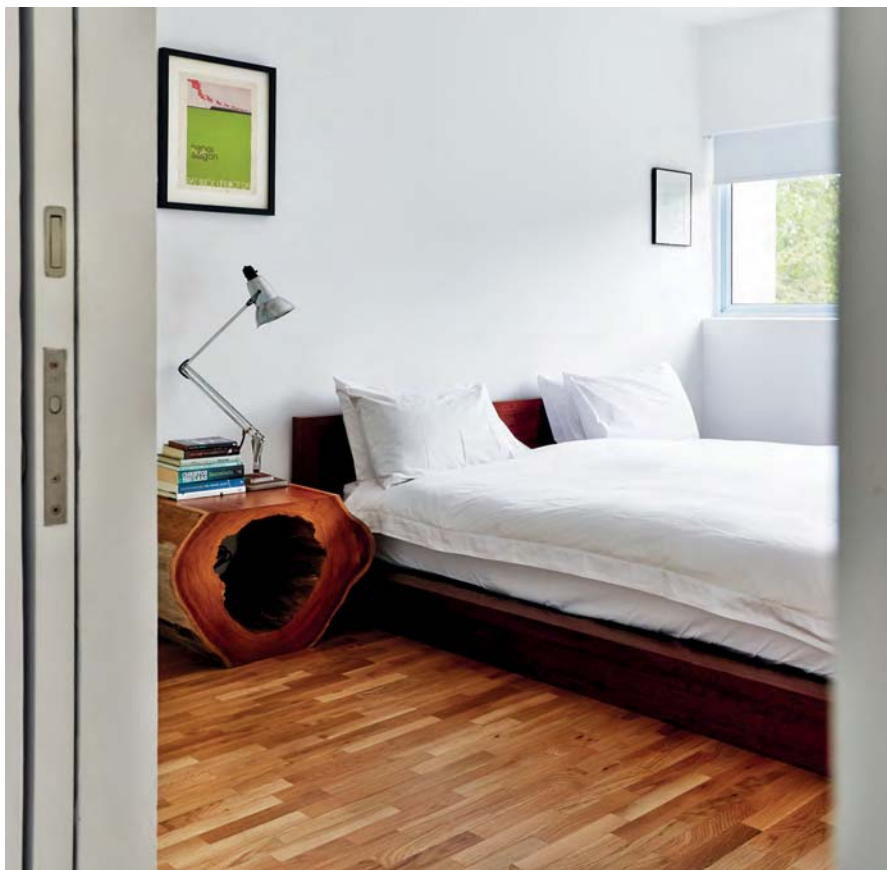
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TOP
Together with the wood floors, a bedside table made from a cross-section of a tree trunk cosies up the room.

RIGHT
Potted plants and the lush view from the wall-to-wall windows bring the outdoors in. ●

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ALL BOXED UP

Striking design features, such as crate-like cabinets and an unfinished brick wall, give this home a unique edge.

WHO

A couple and
their toddler

HOME

Four-room HDB flat
in Tampines

SIZE

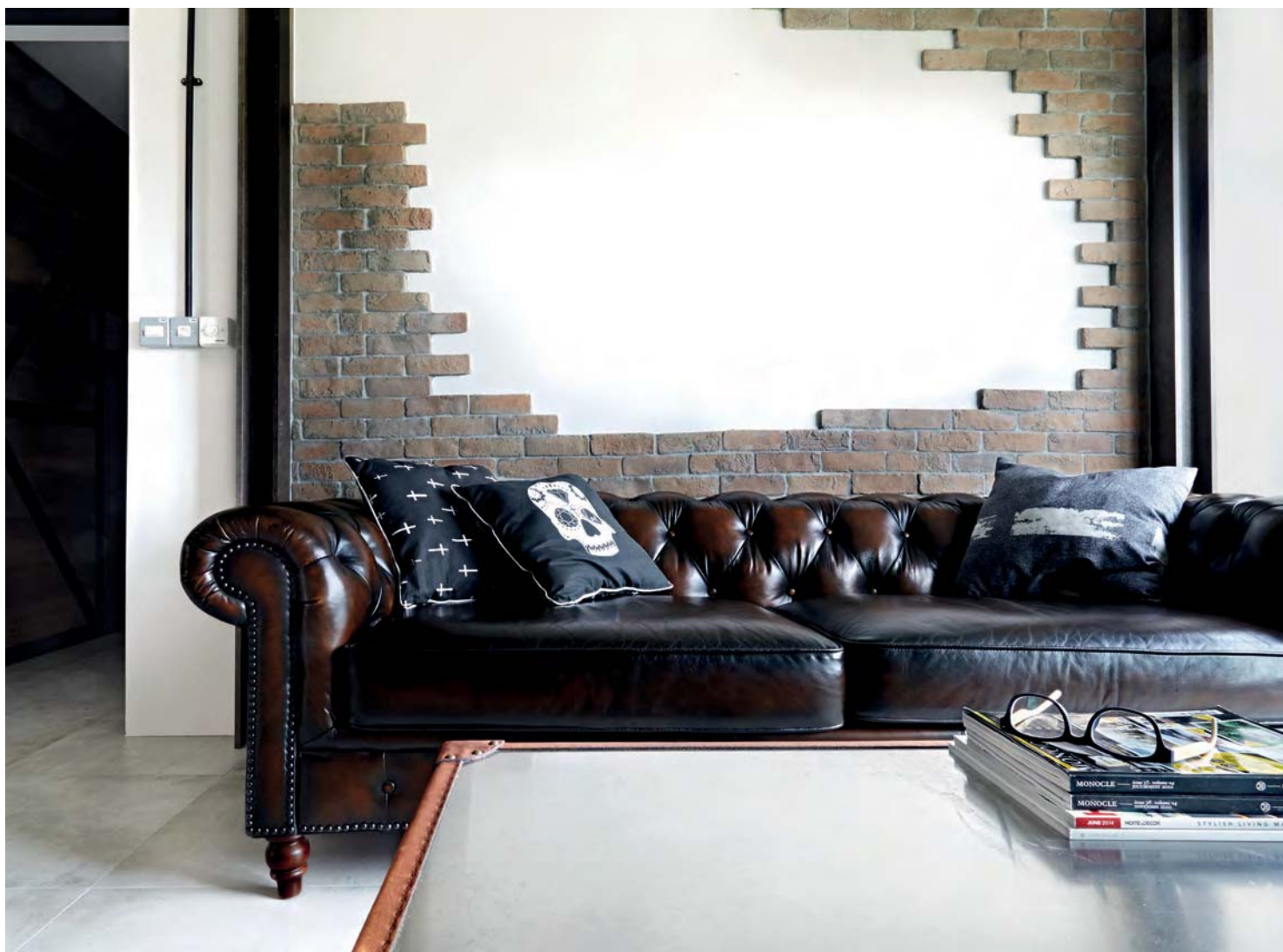
1,100sqf

RIGHT
This custom-built design feature, which uses wood and metal-like laminates, spans one wall of the living room. The wall is painted with chalkboard paint so family members can doodle on it. Chair from Galanga Living. ➤









A tight and unremarkable space, the squarish new digs of this young couple was in dire need of a makeover. The designers at Distinctidentity took on the \$45,000 project, and while the renovations took a mere eight weeks to complete – the changes comprised mainly cabinetry and flooring works, with no structural changes – the design took a much longer time to come together.

The initial design had a light colour palette that the couple found too clean, so we spent a year perfecting the look they wanted, says the designer. The end result is a darker, industrial-led concept with a

touch of green (inspired by the wife's occupation in the army). We explore the spaces that were given an unconventional twist.

The living room

Set against a green wall is a custom-made TV console and a series of crate-like cabinets of varied heights, seemingly arbitrarily arranged. Finished in metal and wood-looklike laminates, the cabinets house audiovisual equipment, footwear and knick-knacks. This whole area is framed by wooden beams finished with metal-like laminates. Opposite, what looks like an incomplete brick wall forms another point of interest. ►

ABOVE
The brick-like feature wall was deliberately left unfinished to create the illusion that "the wall was hacked halfway", says the designer.

(OPPOSITE) TOP
Industrial clamps, wire mesh and raw wood textures were used to create cabinets that resemble shipping crates.

BOTTOM
Metal-looklike laminates were applied to the wooden beams that frame the TV console and cabinets.



The wall along the corridor

There are two doorways along this corridor – that of the bomb shelter and the bathroom – and the designer streamlined the look of the space with a design inspired by barn doors. He used wood-lookalike laminates to clad the entire wall, including the doors, and used black metal-look laminates to outline the door openings as well as add simple line details.

The bedroom

Due to the space constraints in the living room and the dining area, most of the storage units were built in the bedroom. Stretching across the width of the room is a platform – on which sits the bed – done up in concrete-screed-lookalike laminate that hides several storage compartments. Floor-to-ceiling wardrobes, which occupy two adjacent walls, offer more storage space. The designer gave the surfaces a more rugged character by using woodgrain laminates of contrasting tones and textures for the wardrobe doors. ●

WHERE TO GO

Distinctidentity, TEL: 6846-0033

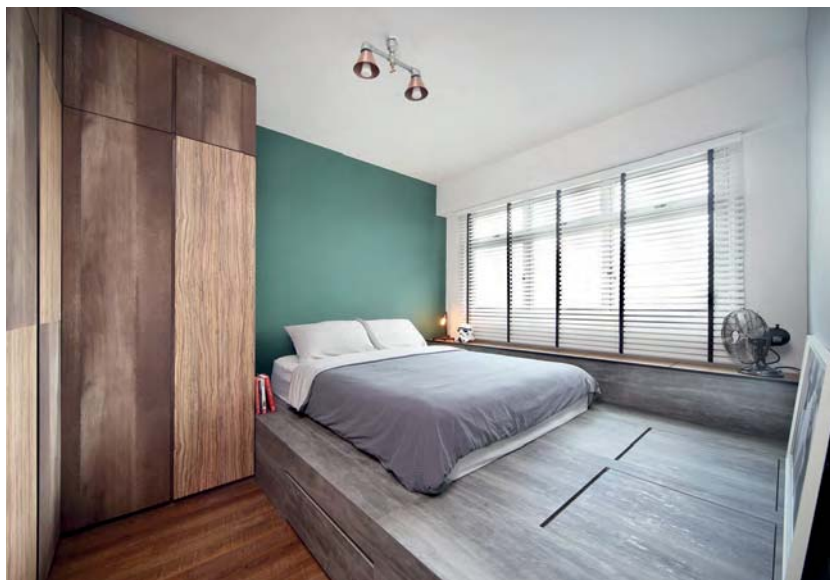
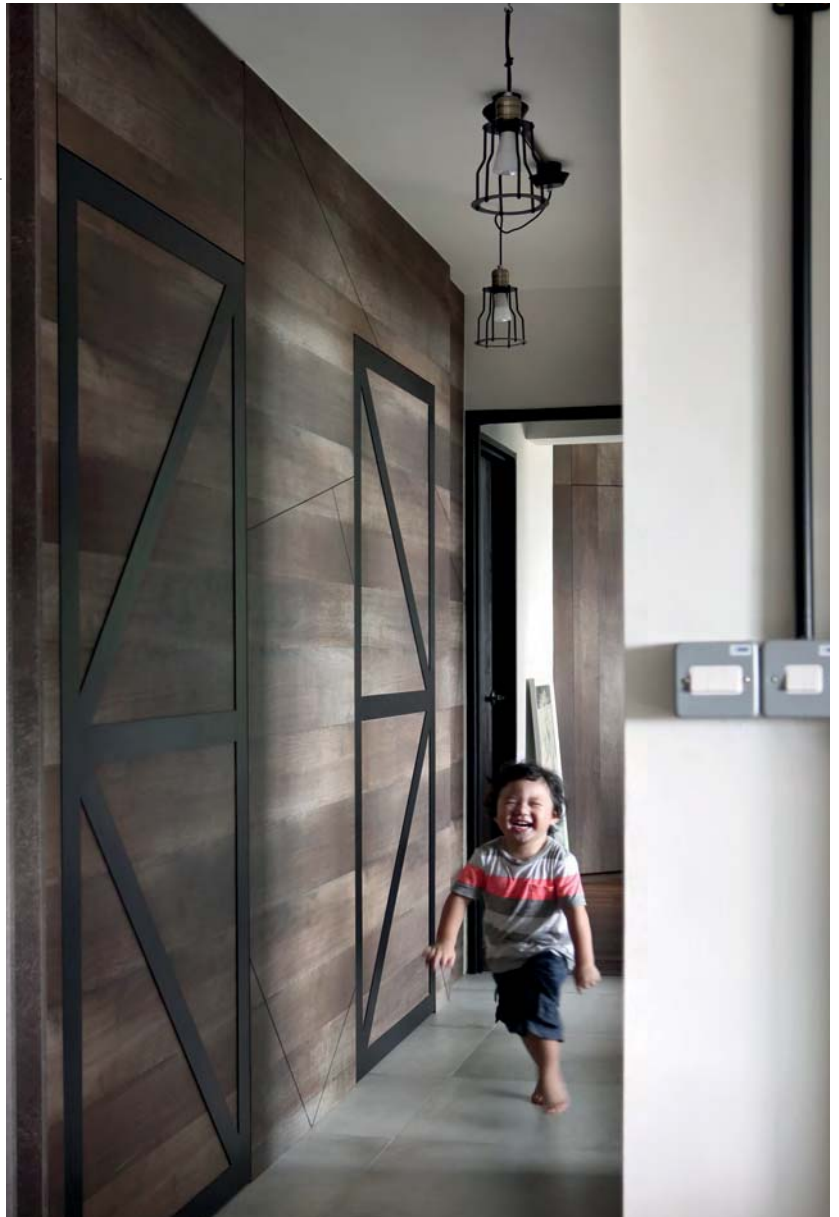
RIGHT
The clever design of this wall ensures that the entrances to the bomb shelter and the bathroom are integrated seamlessly into the wall.

BELOW
The textured surfaces and green accent wall make the simple master bedroom visually more interesting.

[OPPOSITE] FAR LEFT
The chalkboard and brick design elements in the living room continue into the compact dining area.

LEFT
In line with the industrial theme, the kitchen has concrete-screed surfaces and laminated cabinets with rugged wood textures.

photo DISTINCTIDENTITY



THE MORE THE MERRIER

Five tile and three laminate designs
make up the exciting smorgasbord
of pattern and colour in the
kitchen of this flat!

WHO

A bachelor in
his mid-30s

HOME

Four-room HDB flat

SIZE

900sqf



The designer did away with all the non-structural walls, in order to naturally brighten up the flat. To zone the spaces, glass sliding doors were installed. ➤



BELOW
The four walls, as well as the floor of the kitchen, are clad in different tiles, each side varying in pattern and colour.

(OPPOSITE)
LEFT
Three laminate designs, used on the cabinets and countertop, add to the wacky mix of patterns in the kitchen.

TOP RIGHT
The widely travelled homeowner decorated his home with purchases and souvenirs from abroad.

BELOW RIGHT
A custom-design blackboard allows the homeowner to add to the fun and colour of the kitchen in the form of his doodles.





Bachelor Colin Cheong wasted no time in buying his first HDB flat, upon turning 35 and becoming eligible to do so. He envisioned it to be a welcoming, cosy space with wood tones and colours to complement the decor accessories he has collected during his travels over the years. He also wanted it to stand out in a refreshing way, “steering away from trends such as subway tiles and brick walls”. So for something really unorthodox, his interior designer, Alvin Ling of The Scientist, proposed a “remix concept.”

This involved a mishmash of five types of tiles, each with distinctive bold patterns, all in

the modestly sized kitchen. Colin went for it, and chose the colourful Mediterranean tiles from Hafary. “Two out of the five types also have many variations, adding to the chaos!” he laughs. But that’s not all – Alvin designed the kitchen cabinetry to incorporate three styles of laminates, too! The result is a visually arresting design that makes the space the focal point. Colin spent about \$60,000 (excluding furniture) on the renovation. ➤

WHERE TO GO

The Scientist, TEL: 6743-0363



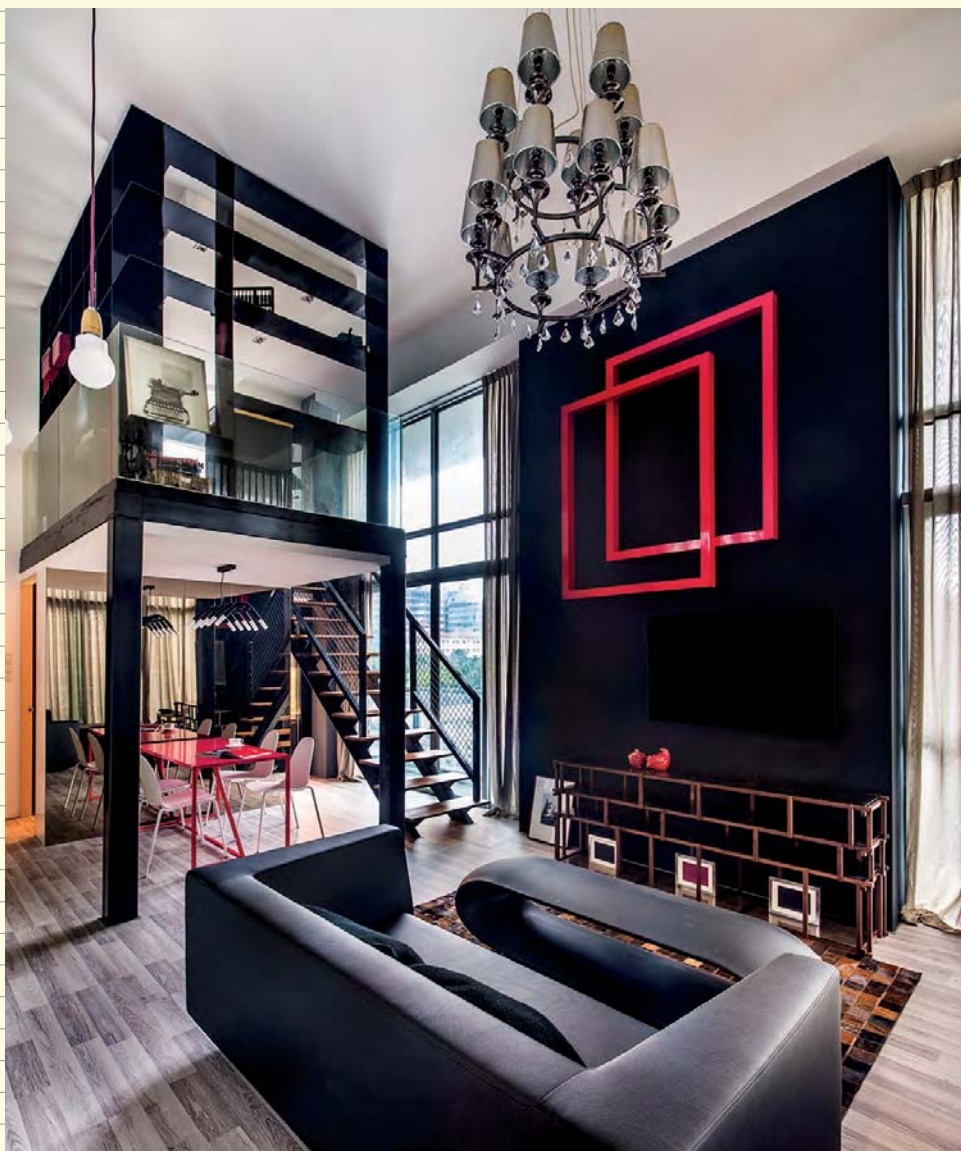


LEFT
Alvin turned one bedroom into a spacious dining area. Colin accessorised the space with framed prints of his own photographs.

[OPPOSITE] TOP
A built-in cabinet separates the entrance foyer from the living room, while still allowing natural light in from the window. The two-in-one structure stores shoes on one side, and acts as a TV console on the other.

BELOW LEFT
Faux grass and a colourful cow planter acquired in Australia are the first things visitors see upon entering, adding a touch of fun and personality to the space.

BELOW RIGHT & MIDDLE RIGHT
Two bedrooms were combined to form a larger master bedroom, which includes an open wash area next to the new entrance to the shower area. Formerly, the bathroom could be accessed only via the kitchen. ●



design DISTINCTIDENTITY

of 2.1m at the top level, enough for a person to stand up," says the designer. As the homeowner was going to use the space as a study, the designer customised wooden study desks and shelves for the room, too. The total cost came up to between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

For a cleaner finish, homeowners can consider using wood to build their loft, but that would be more expensive, advises the designer.

My spare room, which is used for furniture and bric-a-brac, has developed a musty scent. How do I get rid of the smell?

The first thing you must do is to throw open the windows and air out the room! Do this often to prevent the air from getting stale.

You might not be able to see mould with the naked eye, but "if a room smells musty, there's probably mould growing on the surface," says Bernard Tan of Akzo Nobel, which manufactures Dulux paint.

Identify the source of the mould and fix it – is it a leak within the walls, or maybe an opening that's allowing rain to trickle in? Rainwater can sometimes seep in through the walls, too!

For a natural remedy, place pieces of black charcoal around the room to deodorise the air and reduce dampness, advises Militza Maury of Little Green Dot, an eco-friendly living blog. Make a room spray with all-natural essential oils (get the recipe at www.tinyurl.com/naturalspray), instead of using chemically scented room fresheners.

If you're clearing out the room for someone to move in, give it a fresh coat of paint to visually brighten it up. "Consider using Dulux Fungicidal Wash to remove the mould on the walls before painting," says Bernard. ►

Q & A

YOUR RENO & DECOR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

We answer your renovation and decorating questions with help from industry experts. E-mail questions to maghomedecor@sph.com.sg.

I'm looking to buy a small apartment with a really high ceiling, as I heard I can build a loft bedroom to maximise the space. I'm keen, but how much would it cost and how do I go about doing that?

Small Office Home Office (Soho) apartments, which usually come with ceiling heights of 4.5m to 5m, are usually marketed with the assurance that the owners are able to build a loft level to maximise its tiny footprint.

Buyers have to take into account the extra expense needed to build this mezzanine, and the regulations relating to its construction.

For instance, the new structure cannot be mounted onto the existing wall and floor surfaces, and should be treated as a temporary addition, which can be removed when needed.

Its design also needs the endorsement of a Professional Engineer to ensure that it is sound and, once that is approved, the drawings will be sent to the estate management for record.

For this Soho apartment in Kallang (pictured), the designer at Distinctidentity constructed the 300sqf loft level, its staircase and railing out of galvanised metal, which is stable due to its weight. "We usually provide a clearance

ONE-STOP SOLUTION

Drop by the City Gas Gallery and discover everything you need to kit out your kitchen, from gas heaters to gas clothes dryers, wine chillers and the perfect hob for serious foodies.



Take your pick from the vast selection of gas water heaters available.

The kitchen is the heart of any home and kitting it out ensures a happy time whipping out delicious, warm meals for the family. If you need ideas on the best hob and hood combi, just pop by the City Gas Gallery at PWC Building, which stocks an extensive selection of kitchen appliances including gas clothes dryer, gas water heaters, wine chiller and washing machine.

For starters, if you're shopping for a hob, consider the newly launched built-in hob with timer control. Exclusive to City Gas, this hob is the first-of-its-kind here with this feature. It's easy to use, and you can set the timer for up to 120 minutes, after which the flame

automatically turns off once the time is up. A flame failure device also means that the gas supply is immediately cut off when there is no flame, making it safe to use and energy saving. The hob is available in either a black tempered glass or brushed stainless steel finish.

Now that you have your swanky new hob, check out other gas appliances. For instance, the gas clothes dryer can dry up to 6kg of laundry in less than 60 minutes while gas water heaters are energy-saving and assure a continuous flow of hot water supply throughout the home. Last but not least, if you're mulling over a purchase, there are product demonstrations available here where you can see these products and more in action.



Built-in Hob with Intelligent Digital Timer Control



Gas Clothes Dryer

For more information, visit the City Gas Gallery at PWC Building, Level 2, 8 Cross Street, or www.citygas.com.sg.

Enjoy weekly promotions and daily Spin-the-Wheel contests at the City Gas Carnival Sale, held at City Gas Gallery at PWC Building in July 2015. Other exciting activities include a culinary demonstration by celebrity chef, Forest Leong and a free talk on renovation tips!

I've always liked prints, and want to use wallpaper on my walls. What do I need to know?

Wallpapers aren't just decorative paper you paste on your walls anymore. The range of patterns and materials available now is huge, and poses lots of exciting possibilities for the home decorator. Most wallpapers have a paper backing, and a decorative printed layer which is finished with a vinyl top coat. The top layer can also be made of fabric, and even natural materials such as grass!

Wallpapers offer texture and dimension, as they can take on embossing, as well as flocking, which gives them a velvet-like surface. Generally, they are great for covering up any imperfections on your wall, such as cracks, with the exception of more delicate ones, such as those printed with foil or made of silk.

Compared to paint, wallpapers are more durable (if applied correctly and professionally), take less time to apply, but are also more expensive. It's inadvisable to use them in humid areas such as bathrooms and kitchens, because the adhesive might lose its strength.

Another reason to use wallpapers is that you can change them when you want to change the look of your room!



design INTERVENTION

It would be really cool if I could use an app to automatically switch on the appliances in my home. Is there one available?

Ah, the joys of convenience.

Since we already run most of our life using smartphones, we should be able to control our home environments through them, too, right? But such control is possible only with devices that have an infrared connection, such as TV sets, hi-fi systems, gaming consoles, DVD players and so on (in other words, gadgets that can already be controlled remotely).

There are apps you can download, which can turn your smartphone into a universal remote controller; some work through your home's Wi-Fi network, so you can control your Wi-Fi-enabled devices, too. LG

has recently launched its Quick Remote app (only for LG phones), which works with products from various manufacturers.

Product-specific apps for home entertainment products, such as TV sets and hi-fi systems are also becoming more commonplace, making the physical remote control a thing of the past.

For lighting, Philips has developed the Hue lighting system, which can be programmed using an app on your phone to control up to 50 of its Hue LED bulbs.

You can also install a professional home automation system, which comes with its own proprietary app to control selected features, such as your lighting, music, and security. ●

DESIGN EQUATIONS

$$Key + inquisitive + \begin{matrix} \text{analytical} \\ \text{image of blocks} \end{matrix} + \left(\begin{matrix} \text{creative} \\ \text{image of lightbulb} \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \text{persistent} \\ \text{image of flask} \end{matrix} \right) + \begin{matrix} \text{explorative} \\ \text{image of circuit board} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} \text{image of hand holding pen} \end{matrix}$$

With our burning passion in design, we strive for design originality by infusing our



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RENO RIGHT



A renovation means a fresh start – and there's no better time than now to embrace ecophilosophy in your home. Here are five tips for a green renovation you can feel good about:

1. Get an energy audit

Before you start your renovation, do this. It will help you to find ways to make your home more energy-efficient and sustainable. Plan for energy-saving appliances, LED lighting, and taps and showerheads that conserve water. To find a qualified auditor, check online directories and read the reviews. A referral is always best, so use social media for recommendations.

SP Services offers an online electricity audit calculator that helps you find the appliances that guzzle the most energy at

home. For more information, visit www.tinyurl.com/electricityaudit.

2. Choose sustainable materials

Ask your contractor or designer about recycled glass tiles, which are a beautiful way to repurpose glass waste. Bamboo wood and cork are good choices, too, as they're both fast-growing and sustainable materials. Use linen upholstery where possible – the material is naturally sustainable as it requires less water in farming.

3. Choose low-VOC paints

VOCs are volatile organic compounds that can release chemicals into your home for years. Minimise this risk by choosing an environmentally friendly low-VOC paint, which you can find from Nippon Paint and Dulux.

4. Dispose of waste responsibly

If you are left with a lot of construction and material waste, make sure they are disposed of properly. Don't leave it up to your contractor! The website, www.wasteisnotwaste.com, is a great resource for finding ways to dispose of your waste.

5. Think for the long term

Choose a classic design that's not trendy or dated – you don't want to have to change the look of your home in a few years. It will not only be a waste of money, but also of resources. The quality of your renovation should stand up to the test of time.

AFTER THE RENOVATION

Make space for nature

Incorporate a green-living project, such as a mini garden, into your home. Even if you don't have a green thumb, you can connect with groups such as Edible Garden City (www.ediblegardencity.com) and join its weekend community gardens to learn more about urban farming.

TIP!

Create a one-of-a-kind look by sourcing vintage furniture to furnish your home with. Check out Hock Siong & Co. for second-hand pieces you can add value to, and find beautiful refurbished furniture at Noden (www.noden.co) and Second Charm (www.secondcharm.net) ●



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Grab a pack for \$10.95 at Cold Storage, Fairprice Finest, Fairprice Xtra, Jasons The Gourmet Grocer or Market Place.



Let's Have Brunch

Instead of having brunch at an overpriced cafe, serve it up at home in style with the pretty pastel hues of Le Creuset's new Holiday Brunch collection (pictured above). The stoneware serving dishes and cutlery come in Salmon Pink, Coastal Blue and Custard Yellow. Prices start from \$53 for a small mug. The collection goes perfectly with the soft buttery yellow of Quince (pictured left), Le Creuset's new colour for its cast iron cookware. Both Quince and the Holiday Brunch collection are available from July.

Le Creuset is available at Isetan, Metro Centrepoint, Robinsons, Takashimaya D.S., and Tangs.



A Pretty Tea Party

Add some sparkle and whimsy to your table with these attractive plates from American brand Rosanna. These tableware are just some of the many delightful items available at party supplies store Dreams and Confetti, which also stocks pastel-coloured cake stands, glassware and party decorations. Pictured are the Alhambra plates, sold in a set of four for \$104.86.

Visit Dreams and Confetti at #02-20C/D Great World City, tel: 6733-0320. ▶

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Fuss-free Cooking

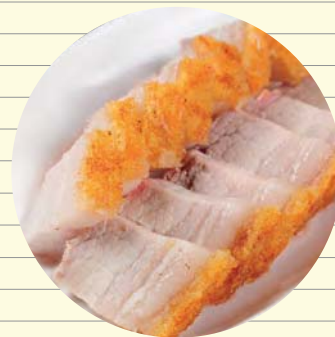
Equipped with a sleek LED display that lets users operate functions such as grilling, defrosting, and reheating, easily, Electrolux's latest Impresso microwave oven model is surely deserving of its Singapore Good Design Mark Award. The free-standing EMS2348X microwave oven-cum-grill is perfect for families, as it enables you to whip up healthy meals faster thanks to its eight default cooking programs.

Available for \$249 at major electrical and department stores.

Delicious Roasts

The Legendary Hong Kong restaurant may serve up Cantonese standards such as roast meat, noodles, congee and dim sum, but its signature best-selling roasted London ducks actually come from the Silver Hill Farm in Ireland. These Grade A Irish ducks (also the choice of renowned British chef Heston Blumenthal) are known for their tender flesh and unforgettable aroma when cooked. We recommend taking away one (or two) for your next party at home, together with other delicious roast offerings.

A whole roasted London duck costs \$62, from Legendary Hong Kong at #03-80 Jurong Point 2 Shopping Centre, tel: 6794-1335.



TIP

ON SEASONING

"Instead of using pre-made sauces, try incorporating fresh herbs in your dishes to give them that extra kick."

– Chef Daniele Sperindio of Open Door Policy.

Fun and Functional

Serve up a message on environmental sustainability while you entertain, with fun essentials from Qualy. One such example is the Polar Bear ice bucket (pictured below) – as ice on top melts and drains, the rising water level at the bottom of the bucket parallels the reality of the animal's disappearing habitat due to global warming.

Find Qualy products at www.qualydesign.sg, www.naise.com, and www.hipvan.com. ●



Time to Cook

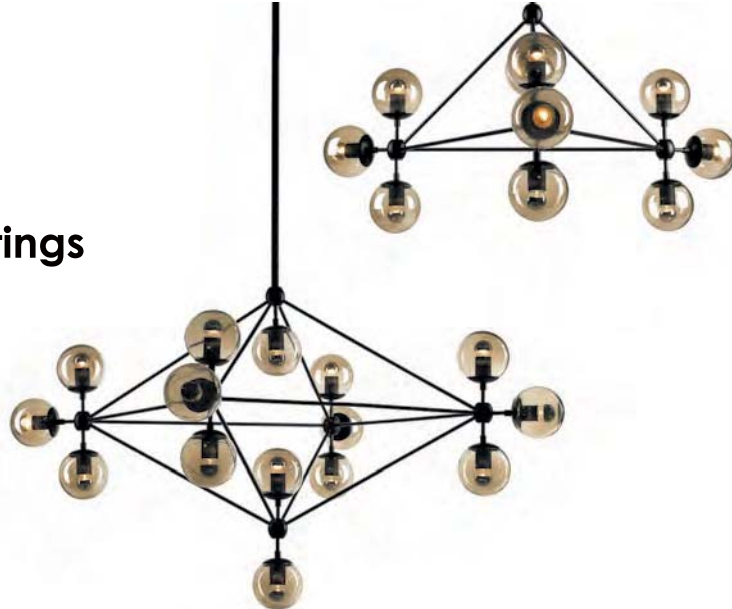
Having to check the time while you cook can be a chore. The Aerogaz Built-in Hob with Timer Control allows you to set the timer (for up to 120 minutes) for your desired cooking time. The flame will automatically be extinguished once the time is up, and an alarm will ring. For additional safety, a built-in flame safety device will cut off the gas as soon as the flame goes out.

The hob is available in black tempered glass and brushed stainless steel, from the Citygas Gallery at #02-01 PWC Building, 8 Cross Street, tel: 6732-6910.



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PART 2 OF
A TWO-PART
SPECIAL

CASH CONVERTERS

Besides the Lease Buyback Scheme, retirees hoping to unlock their HDB flat's value can also check out three other options.

While we look forward to idyllic days when we finally retire, the truth is that many of us may find our savings insufficient and retirement too expensive. It doesn't help that Singapore's population is facing a double whammy: an ageing population and a declining birth rate. While we had 5.2 working-age citizens per elderly citizen in 2014, this will drastically dip to just 2.1 in 2030.

What this means is, unlike our parents' generation who can count on their kids to support them, those of us retiring in the next decade or two will likely have to fund our own retirement.

To help senior citizens – current and future ones – plan their retirement better, the Housing Board (HDB) has four ways for them to monetise their HDB flat. One is the enhanced Lease Buyback Scheme, featured in the first part of our Retirement Special series last month. Here are three other methods your elderly parents – or you, in the not-too-distant future – will find useful.

RENT OUT A FLAT OR ROOM

The most common and arguably easiest option, renting out a spare room or an entire flat allows retirees to earn rental income without having to sell their home.

According to a 2013 survey conducted by the Ministry of National Development (MND), one in 10 senior citizens aged 55 years and above sublet their flat or a spare bedroom, and for a myriad of reasons. The majority do so for additional retirement income while, interestingly, a minority choose to sublet a room as they want company.

All homeowners (Singaporeans and Permanent Residents alike) can sublet their HDB-flat bedrooms – store rooms, bomb shelters and living rooms don't

count – anytime they wish, to tenants of any nationality and for as long as they wish, without seeking the HDB's approval. They do, however, need to log their tenants' details with the HDB online (www.bit.ly/1HKTMLm) within seven days of the commencement of the subletting.

Do note that only owners of three-room HDB flats and bigger can lease out their spare rooms. Three-room flat owners

can rent out one bedroom, subject to a maximum number of six occupants in the entire unit. Owners of four-room or bigger units can rent out a maximum of two bedrooms (regardless of the number of bedrooms you have), housing a maximum of nine people.

If you choose to sublet a whole HDB unit – only Singaporeans are allowed to do so – make sure you fulfil the minimum





occupation period of five years (or three years, if you bought an unsubsidised HDB flat from the open market before Aug 30, 2010). You will need to seek prior approval from the HDB (www.bit.ly/1xhYihg) and each approved subletting period is a maximum of three years for Malaysian tenants, or 1½ years for non-Malaysian tenants.

One-room and two-room units can accommodate a maximum of four persons; three-room flats, six persons; four-room or bigger flats, nine persons.

One more thing to note: a recent regulation that came into effect from May 1, 2015, disallows homeowners from subletting their HDB rooms or flats to workers in the marine and process sectors, including the chemicals and pharmaceutical sectors.

BUY A STUDIO APARTMENT

First launched in 1988, studio apartments were built and sold by the HDB to offer senior citizens aged 55 years or older, the option to sell and cash in on their current, bigger homes. They are only open to Singaporeans and PRs whose average gross monthly household income does not exceed \$10,000. Married buyers must include their spouse in the application, though unmarried, divorced or widowed buyers can still apply for a studio apartment. Retirees can also choose to apply for a studio apartment with a non-family member, provided he or she is at least 35 years old.

These apartments, available in sizes of 36sqm (387sqf) and 45sqm (484sqf), come fully renovated with floor tiles for the whole flat, wall tiles in the toilet and kitchen, window grilles, a built-in wardrobe and a complete kitchen with cooker hood and stove. They also boast elder-friendly features such as grab bars and pull cords linked to an Alert Alarm System.

On paper, a smaller, cheaper home for the elderly in a specially built environment sounds like a good idea. However, some buyers complain about the high prices, compared to that of a similar-size two-bedroom Build-To-Order (BTO) apartment. Besides the much shorter 30-year lease versus a two-room flat's 99-year lease, buyers of studio apartments are also not eligible for HDB grants.

According to the BTO Sales Launch in May this year, the price of a studio apartment in Tampines starts from \$86,000. In comparison, a two-room flat in Sembawang costs \$75,000; moreover, if the buyer receives the maximum amount of grants, the flat can be as cheap as \$15,000.

In 2013, a peeved Patrick Soh, then 60, wrote to *The Straits Times'* Forum page. His 47sqm studio apartment in a mature estate had cost him \$168,000, while two-room BTO flats with longer leases were priced more attractively.

MND later clarified that both are very different products catering to different ➤



segments of the market and thus should not be compared. Still, this led to some property experts, such as Nicholas Mak, executive director of research and consultancy at SLP International Property Consultants, suggesting that the government should consider scrapping the studio apartment scheme or extending the lease beyond 30 years.

Unlike two-room flats, studio apartments cannot be sublet for rental income or resold on the open market; it must be returned to the HDB if the owner chooses not to live in it any longer. Buyers must also pay for the studio apartment in full (with CPF and cash) and cannot take a loan, a point that one senior citizen overlooked when he applied for his studio apartment in 2011. Last November, local news website *The Online Citizen* reported that the senior citizen lost over \$10,000 in deposit and fees on his studio apartment when he could not cough up the remaining \$93,000 cash to pay for his new \$170,000 home.

If you are considering buying a studio apartment, note that like any HDB flat application, you must sell off your share in your existing HDB home within six months of taking possession of your new place. Otherwise, you'll have to surrender the unit to the HDB and face a forfeit sum of 5 per cent of the purchase price, and/or any other amount set by the HDB. If

you don't sell off your share in a private property before taking possession of your studio apartment (there's no six-month grace period for private property owners), your application will be cancelled and you will forfeit your option fee and/or any other amount set by the HDB.

RIGHT-SIZING WITH SILVER HOUSING BONUS

Similar to the studio apartment scheme, this also encourages elderly homeowners to downsize, but dangles an attractive Silver Housing Bonus (SHB) carrot. As long as you use some of your net sale proceeds to top up your CPF retirement account (RA) and join CPF Lifelong Income For The Elderly (CPF LIFE) to ensure a regular stream of retirement income, you can apply for the SHB. You'll receive \$1 for every \$3 top-up, or up to \$20,000 per household. Those who didn't get any net proceeds and thus, did not top up their CPF RA, won't receive any SHB.

Like the Lease Buyback Scheme, the Right-sizing Scheme requires you to top up your RA before you can receive the rest in cash. In this case, you need to top up a minimum of \$60,000 (or all your net sale proceeds if you received less than that) to any of the owners' CPF RA, before you can receive the rest in cash.

If your net sale proceeds are between

\$60,000 and \$160,000, you can keep up to \$100,000 in cash. Received more than \$160,000? You'll first need to further top up the CPF RA of the flat owner with the lowest RA balance up to the prevailing full retirement sum (depending on your age, at a maximum of \$161,000 for those aged between 64 and 69 years). Only then, can you keep the excess cash on top of the \$100,000.

This scheme offers more flexibility in terms of the flat size. Seniors can choose to buy a smaller (three-room flat or smaller) and cheaper flat from the resale market or directly from HDB, or a studio apartment. Those who prefer a four-room flat have cried foul, but HDB explains that this move is to encourage elderly households to move to a smaller home so as to maximise the sales proceeds from their previous property and build up their retirement fund.

To qualify, at least one owner must be a Singaporean aged 55 or above, with a maximum household income of \$10,000. Your existing HDB flat must meet the minimum occupation period for resale.

If you're downsizing from a private property, its annual value must be \$13,000 or less (this scheme aims to help lower-income elderly households, hence those in more high-value private properties are excluded). Of course, if you concurrently own a second property, you're not eligible, either.

Also, your smaller HDB flat cannot cost more than the selling price of your existing property. That means you can't "downgrade" from a cheaper four-room flat in far-flung areas such as Jurong West and move into a pricier three-room flat in a more central location in, say, Redhill.

These four schemes currently offered by the HDB each come with their pros and cons. It is never easy to adapt to change, be it accepting a stranger into your home when you rent out a room, or choosing to downsize to a smaller flat – though seniors can choose to age in place and join the Lease Buyback Scheme.

To pick a scheme that best suits your needs, find out more about these monetisation methods on the HDB's website (www.bit.ly/1xki1Zf) and make an appointment to speak to your HDB officer for more details. ●

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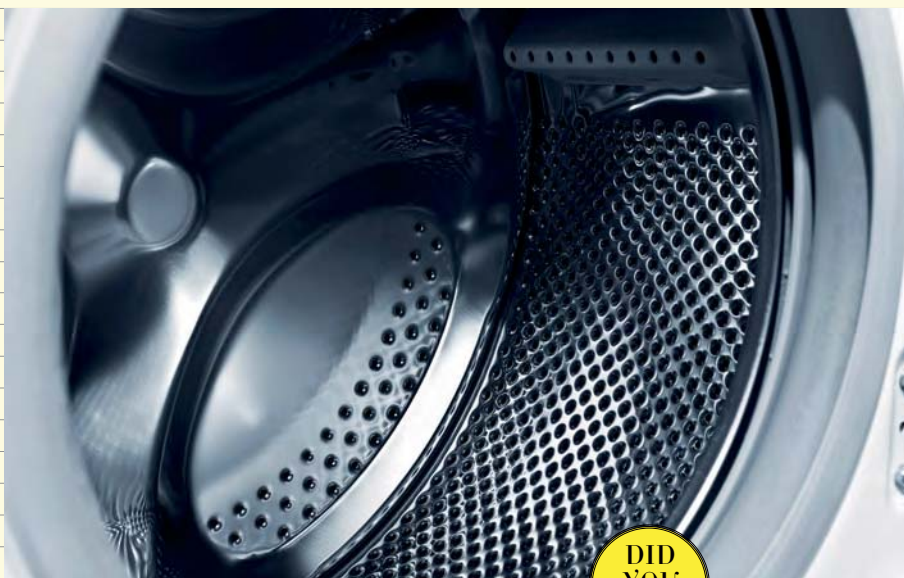
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BREAK THE CODE

Confused by the care labels on your clothes, bedding and upholstery? Here's a quick guide to decoding the symbols to ensure your fabrics get the best care.



DID YOU KNOW?

THE SYMBOLS



What it means

The wash symbol refers to the temperature and cycle that should be used to machine-wash the item. If the symbol includes a hand, it means that handwashing is recommended.



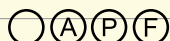
What it means

The triangle symbol tells you whether or not to use bleach. A plain white triangle means any kind of bleach may be used, but if it has two diagonal lines inside, use only non-chlorine bleach.



What it means

The square represents drying methods. A circle inside it means the item is suitable for tumble-drying. Other variations refer to natural drying methods, such as line- or hang-drying (a curved line inside the square), drip-drying (three vertical lines), and for drying flat (a single horizontal line).



What it means

This indicates whether or not the item needs to be dry-cleaned. Some include an uppercase letter (A, P, or F), which refers to the type of dry-cleaning solvent required.



What it means

This tells you if the piece can be ironed regularly (steam or dry), and the temperature that must be used.



Heat settings

These dots are usually seen within the wash, dry and iron symbols. The number of dots increases with the temperature that can be used. One dot means a "cool" setting or low heat; two dots point to "warm" or medium heat; and three dots refer to "hot" or high heat. Some labels also indicate the maximum temperature (in degrees Celsius) that should be used.



Cycle types

These bars may be included underneath the wash and tumble-dry symbols. A single line means a permanent press cycle, and two lines mean a delicate or gentle cycle. If there is no line, a normal cycle can be used.



"Do not" sign

The X code shows you what not to do. For example, a "do not wash" symbol is your cue to take the item to the dry-cleaners, while an "X" over the dry-clean symbol means the piece is washing machine-safe.

Upholstered furniture pieces typically have a care tag that indicates the safest cleaning method for the fabric. The codes are:

W – Use only water and water-based detergent. Create a diluted solution and apply in a circular motion, then rinse with water thoroughly.

S – The fabric requires solvent-based products such as dry-cleaning solutions. In short, it is best to leave the job to professionals.

S/W – Either use a water-based cleaner or have it dry-cleaned, depending on the type of stain.

X – The upholstery cannot withstand any sort of cleaning method other than vacuuming and light brushing. ●

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A CHEERFUL BALANCE

The designer of this home balanced its industrial style with other decor elements to keep the look light and inviting.

This family of three met Montie Mahtani from M3 Studio when he renovated their first home. Pleased with his work, they decided to employ his services once more for their second abode, a new four-room HDB flat in Tiong Bahru.

Wanting to step away from the sleek, contemporary design of their first home, they requested a more distressed, raw look this time round, and shared pictures of several industrial-style homes with him. Adhering to their request, he used concrete-screed flooring and track lighting throughout the living, dining and kitchen areas, including the home's corridor.

The bathroom was given the most drastic transformation; he covered the floor with homogenous wood-lookalike tiles, and hid the bathroom piping behind a red brick feature he designed to mimic the unfinished look of a building's internal structure. A lone light bulb hangs from the ceiling, accentuating the industrial feel.

Montie wanted to keep the bedrooms looking warm and cosy, so he used less concrete and more wood in the family's sleeping quarters. The master bedroom's large wardrobe was clad in raw plywood, mimicking the appearance of a large wooden crate, and helped tone

down the cold appearance of the concrete-screed walls.

To avoid creating an overwhelmingly "rough" space, he balanced out the industrial elements with a contemporary-style TV console in the living room, and simple white and wood cabinets in the kitchen and bathroom.

He also added chalkboard walls to hide the entrance of the bomb shelter, and used printed tiles for the kitchen backsplash. It was thanks to these additional elements that this apartment was kept looking homely and welcoming. ●

WHERE TO GO

M3 Studio, www.m3studio.sg





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The Electrolux EWW12742 front-load washer dryer retails for \$1,499. Find store locations at www.electrolux.com.sg.



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A first in Singapore, Courts' Customise Your Bed lets you customise a bed in six easy steps, and have it delivered to you in three days. Start by choosing the type of springs and end by selecting the material finishing for the bed. You can even choose the firmness and cover of the mattress, headboard and bed base.

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The Tefal Intense Pure Air air purifier costs \$399 for the bedroom version. It's available from July 20 at all leading department and electrical stores, and selected hypermarkets.



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Stay cool in any room at home with the York Grande Inverter air-conditioner. The Follow Me function in its remote controls allow the indoor units to sense the temperature from where the remote controls are, offering a more targeted cooling experience. You can also enjoy better air quality at home, as the air-conditioner is able to remove dust and smoke. For added convenience, use York's smartphone app for one-touch control of the units.

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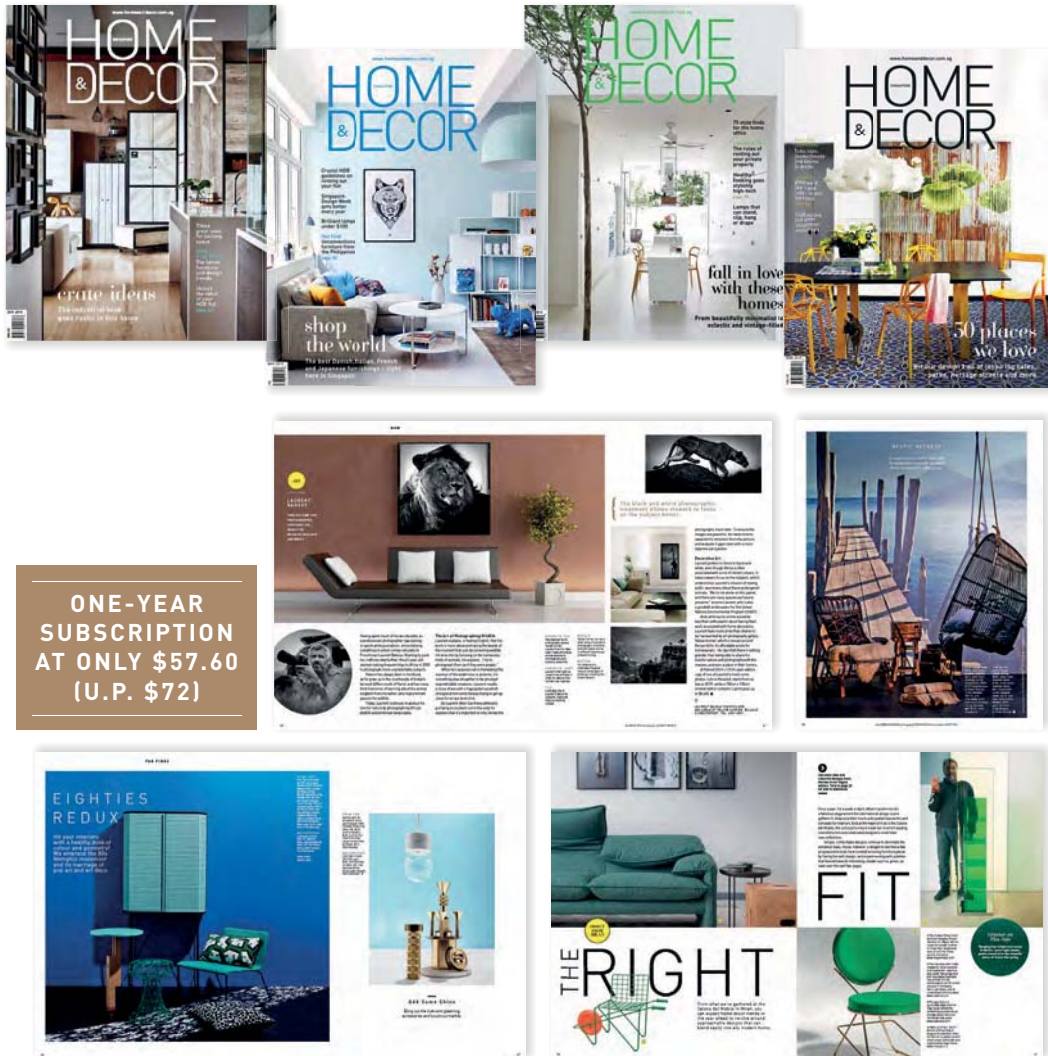
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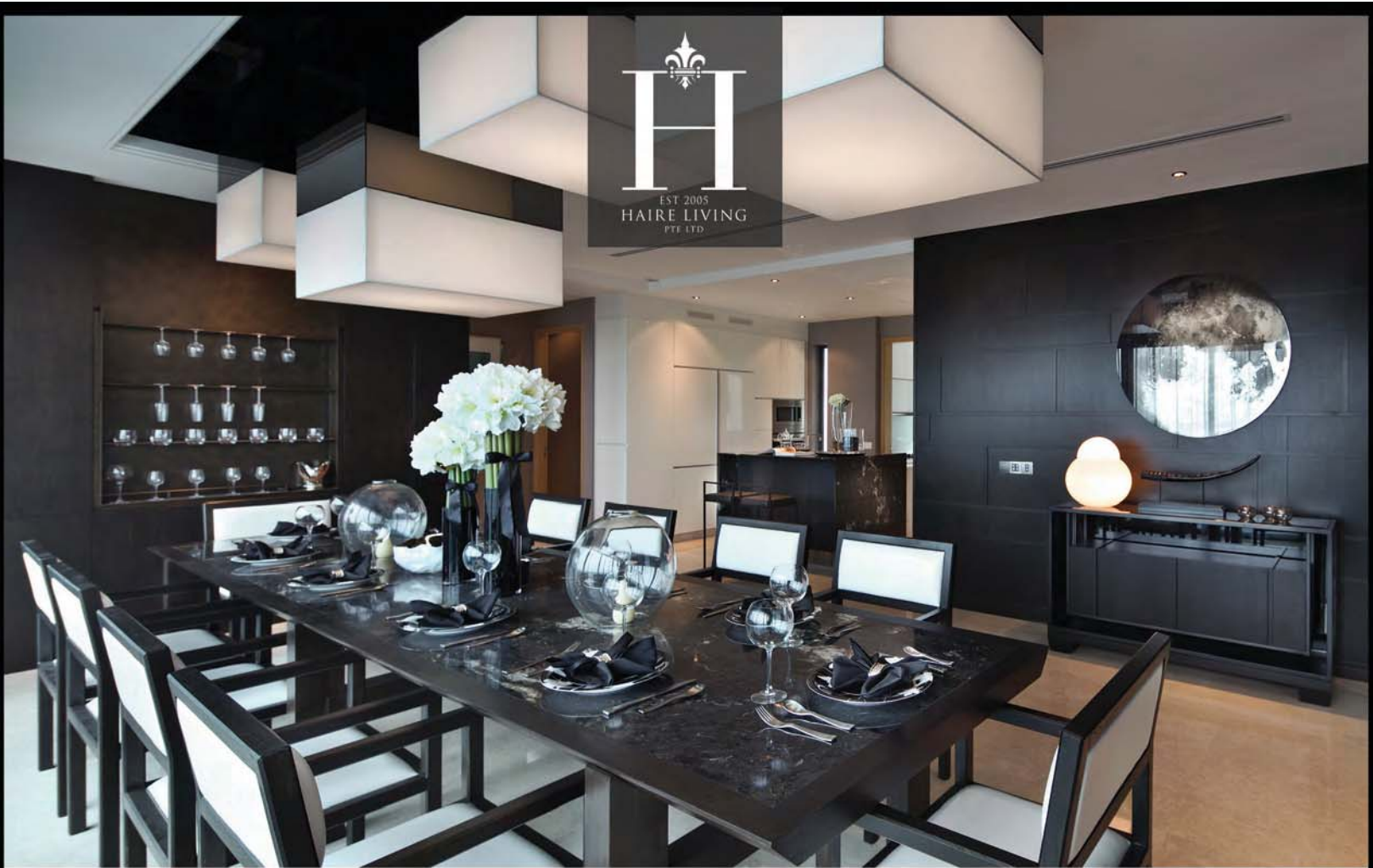
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